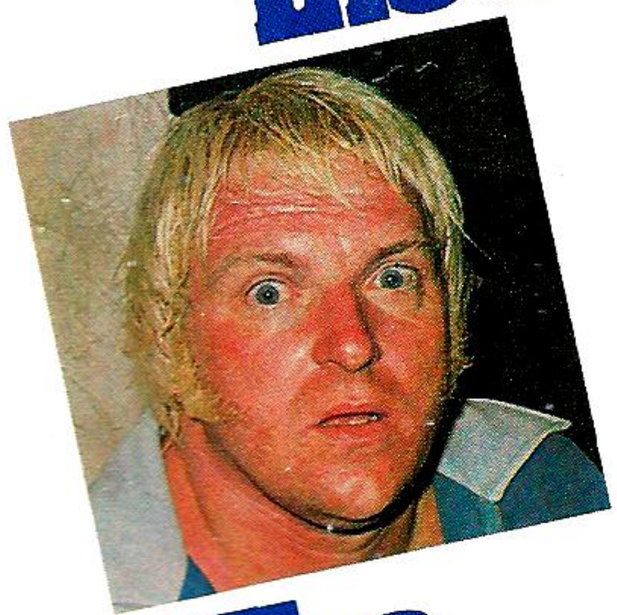
FULL-COLOR ACTION GALLERY: JIMMY "SUPERFLY" SNUKA

SPORTS REVIEW SERIES

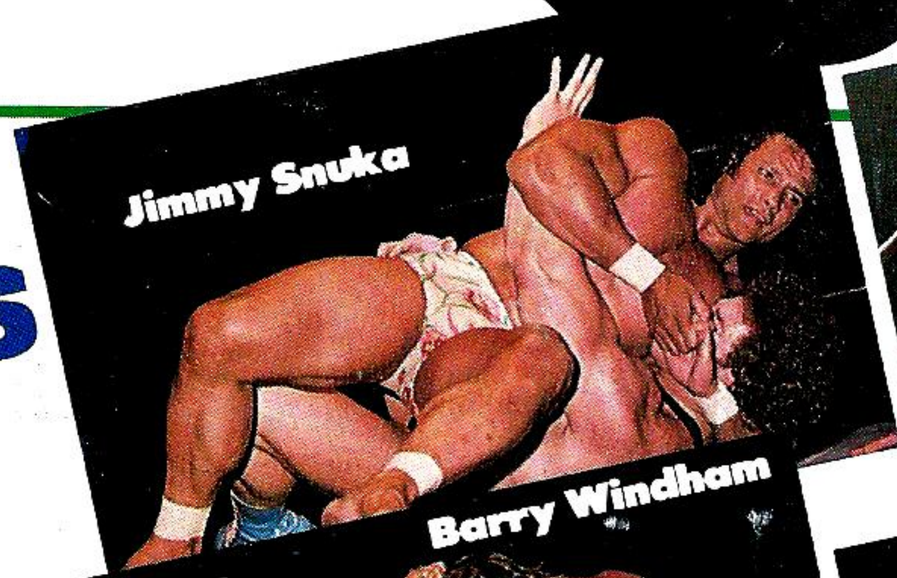
Winter 1983 47841 $1.75

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS

Bobby Heenan's Most Wanted List:



"The Men I Want To Manage"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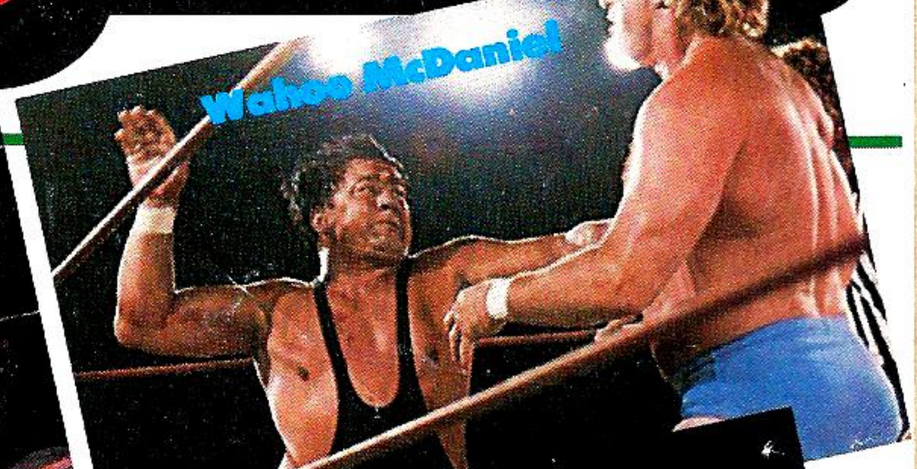
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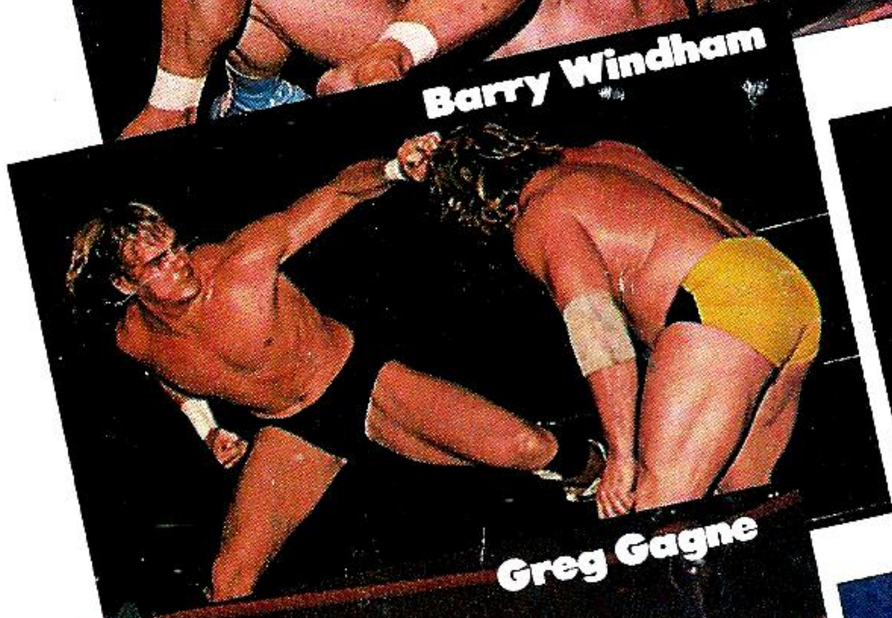
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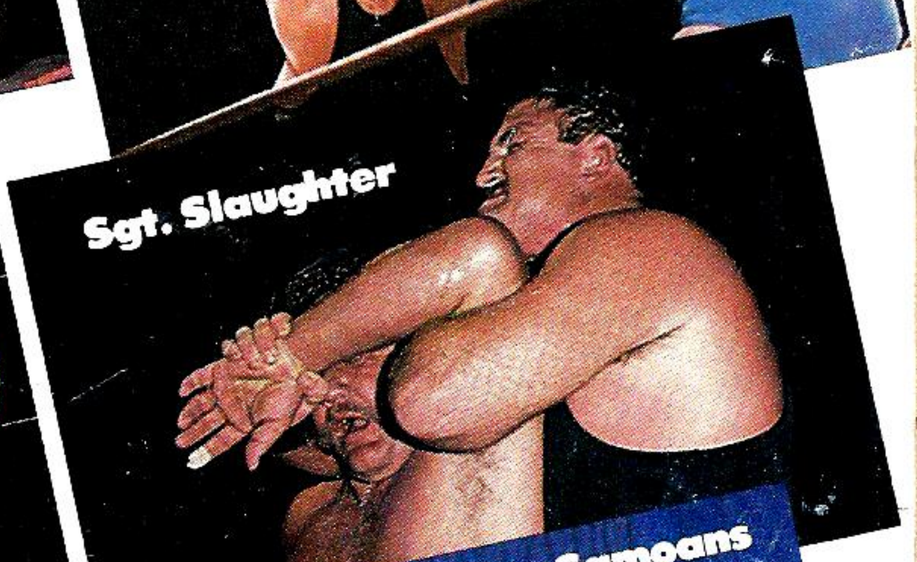
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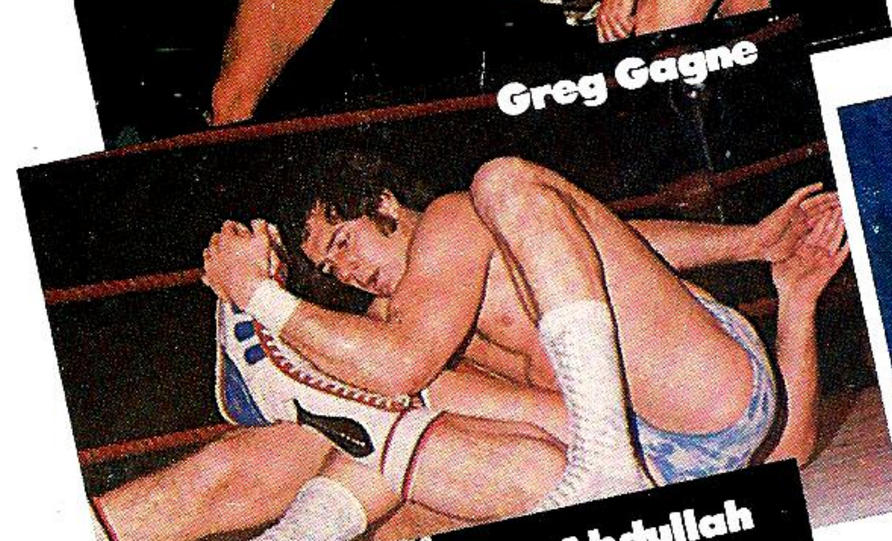
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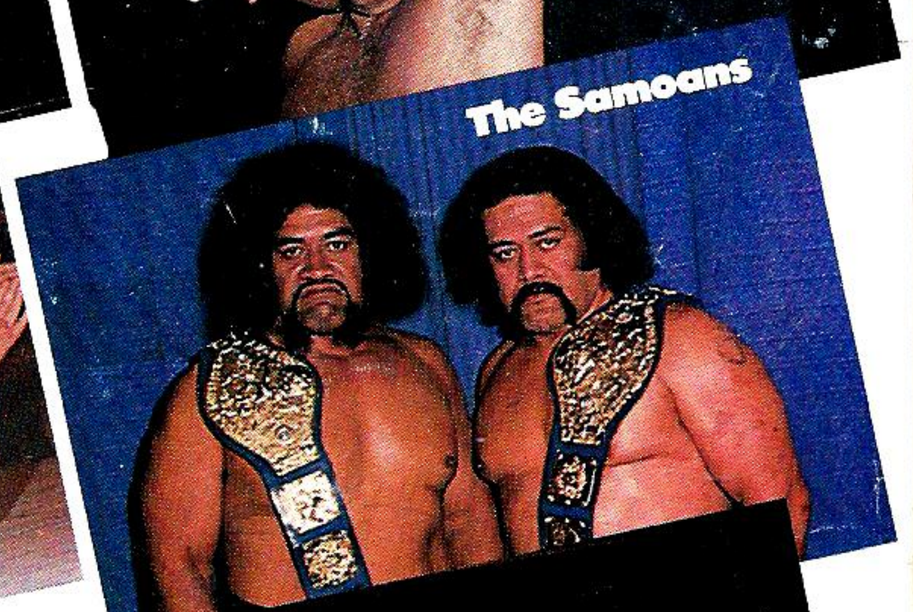
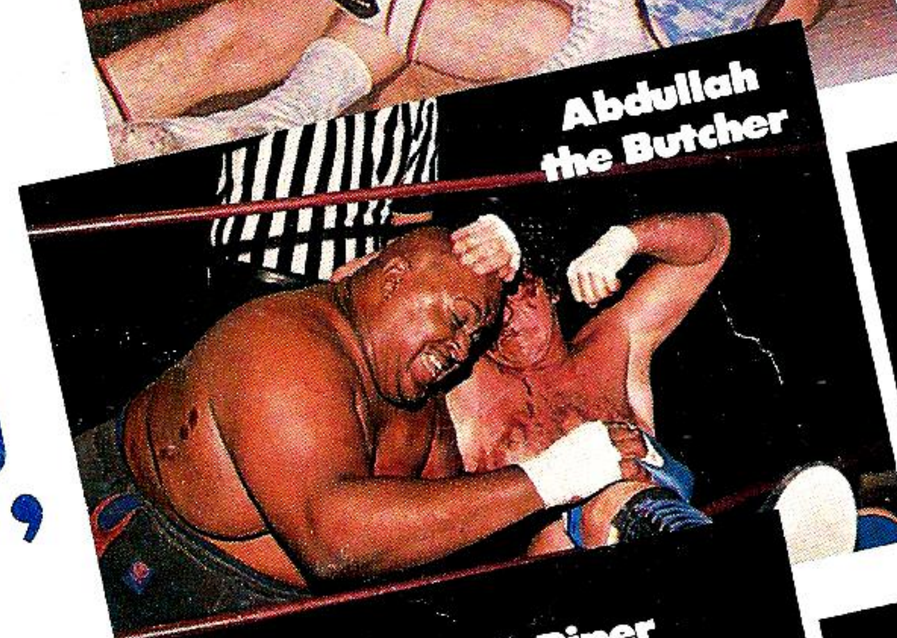

The Samoans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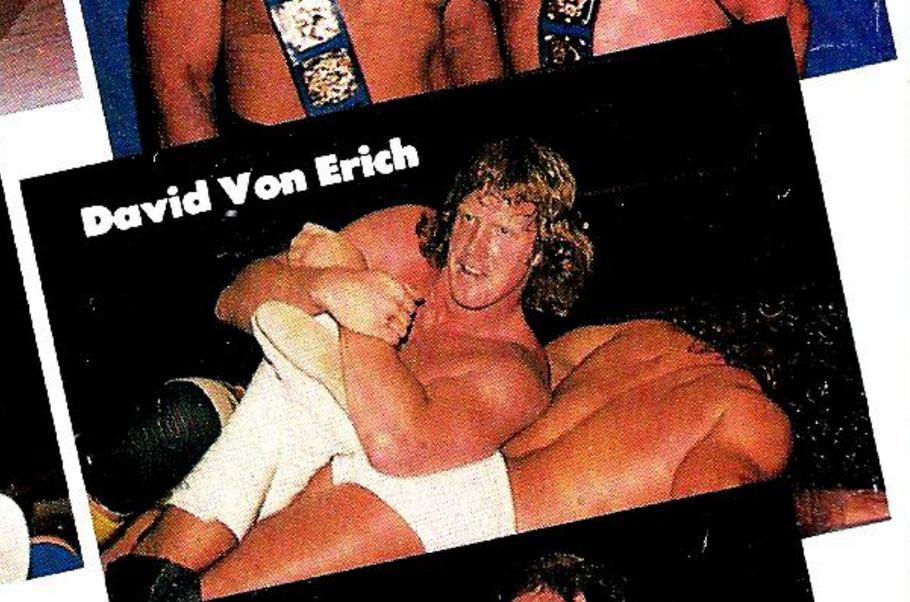
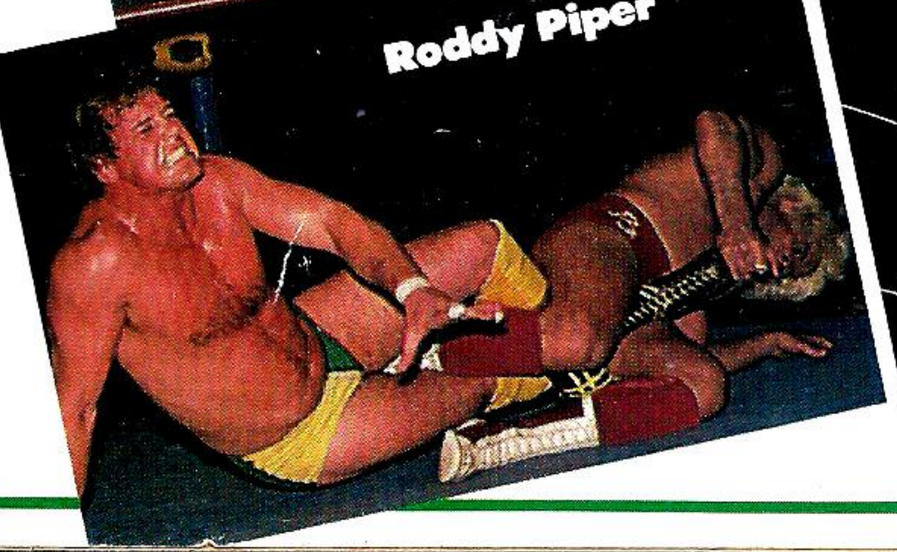
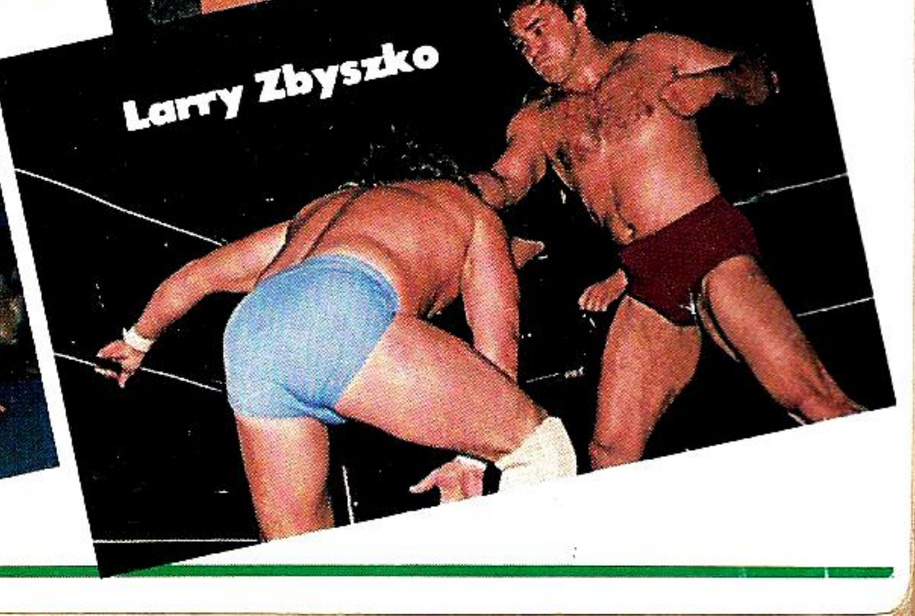

David Von Erich


Roddy Piper


Larry Zbyszko

SUPER STAR GRAPEVINE

HACKSAW DUGGAN and **Terry "Magnum T.A." Allen** defeated **Ted DiBiase** and **Boris Zurkhov** for the Mid-South tag team championship in what many observers are calling the strangest upset of the year. Especially when one considers that the champions were DiBiase and **Mr. Olympia**.

What happened was that **Gen. Skandor Akbar** and Olympia were on the road to an arena in Tulsa, Oklahoma. On their way to arena, they were arrested (they claim for speeding), and consequently were unable to get to the match in time.

Meanwhile, matchmaker **Grizzly Smith** demanded that DiBiase choose another partner, either **King Kong Bundy** or Zurkhov, both of whom were at ringside. The match proceeded, with DiBiase and Zurkhov defending the belts actually held by DiBiase and Olympia.

DiBiase and Zurkhov lost the belts.

"It was the only alternative open to me," said Grizzly Smith, defending his actions in Tulsa. "A match was made, Olympia didn't show up, so I had to make my decision. I don't regret it at all."

Mr. Olympia was outraged at the incident.

"It's all Duggan's fault," he claimed, "he paid off a cop to stop Akbar and me on the road. We weren't going one mile an hour over the speed limit. We were framed, and it cost us the belts. I'll get even with Duggan, you can bet on that!"

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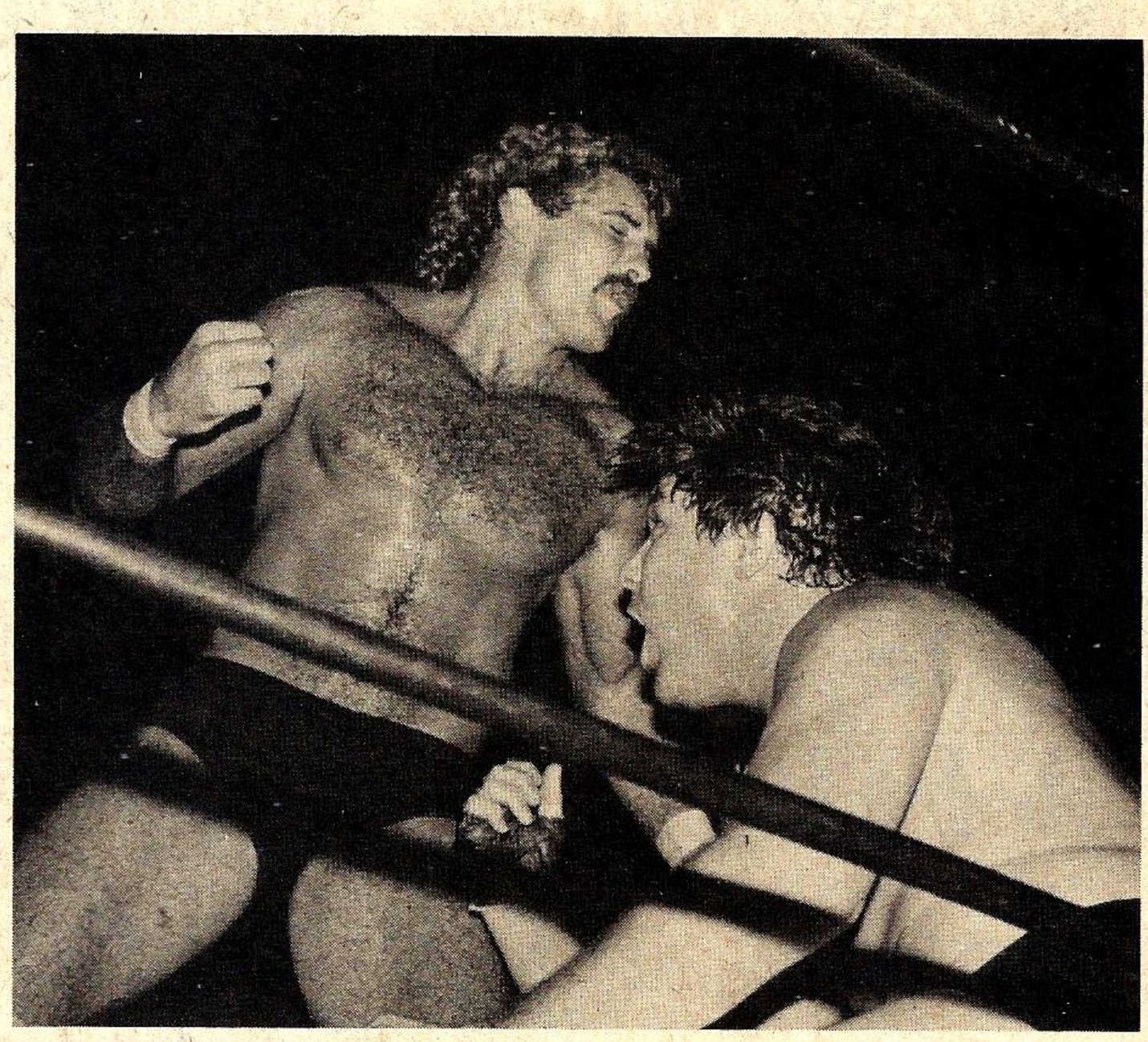
Hulk Hogan, back in the AWA area, says he decided to return after receiving dozens of petitions from fans begging him to do so.



Allen, also known as "Magnum T.A.," wrestled relentlessly despite apparent exhaustion. DiBiase, on the receiving end, called him lucky.

But Hogan was not welcomed back to the AWA by everybody. **Mr. Saito**, who was chosen to present Hogan with the Gran Prix trophy that the Hulk had won while on his tour of Japan, turned on the Hogan in front of thousands of wrestling fans.

When the moment came for the presentation, Saito took the trophy and smashed it over Hogan's head.

"I was a fool to have ever thought that I could place any trust at all in Saito," Hogan said. "There was a time, for a few weeks, that I suspected he might have changed his ways. Some of my friends said

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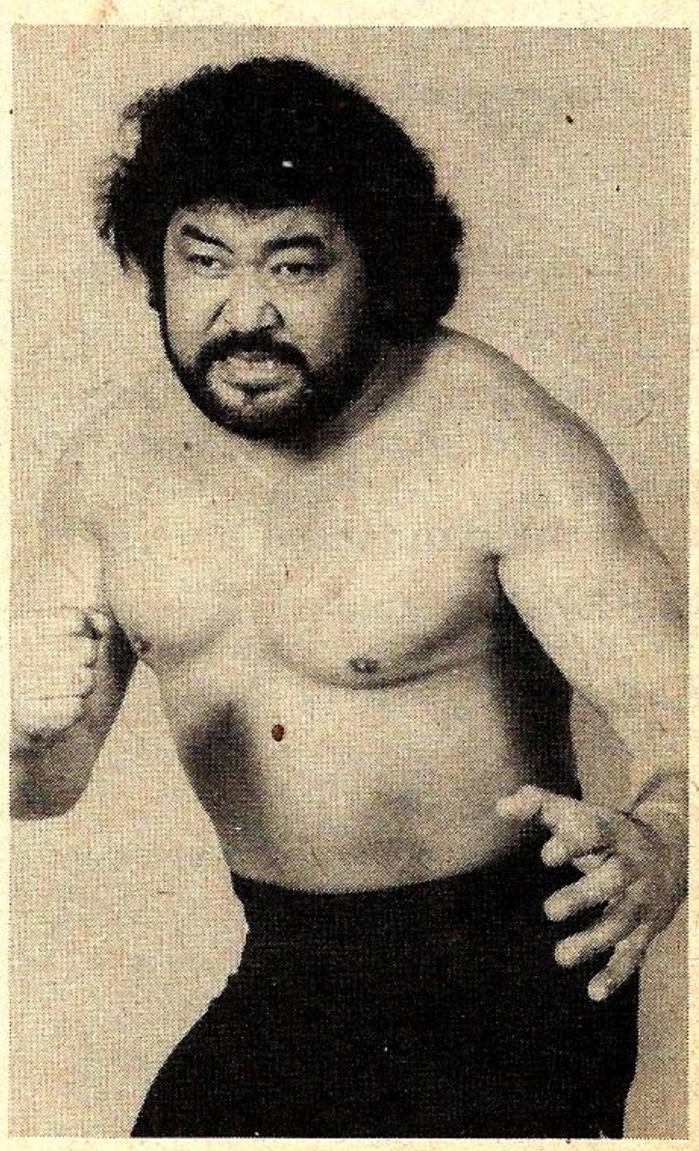

For those in the WWF who were waiting for Mr. Saito to turn bad in the AWA, Hulk Hogan will tell you that your wait is over.

PERHAPS IT'S ABOUT time for Dusty Rhodes to accept the inevitable and stop trying to change unalterable conditions. All this maddening fury accomplishes is more bitterness and more frustrations for the American Dream. He must understand his tragic fate has nothing to do with his enormous natural gifts and little to do with his unique blend of wrestling.

Dusty Rhodes will never have a long reign as champion simply because he is Dusty Rhodes. And he can do absolutely nothing about it.

Rhodes goes all out every second of his life, burning oil and never resting. When he wins a title, he accelerates. He increases his schedule, tackles every foe, attends every publicity and autograph signing session. Rhodes wants to act like a champion. Unfortunately, he drains his energies.

"I feel when I'm the champ I gotta act like a champ every single moment," said Rhodes. "I can't let up 'cause I got too many people lookin' up to me and believin' in me. I can't let them down."

Pressure flows from two directions. Fans love Rhodes, for what he is and what he stands for. And Rhodes, determined to both fulfill and expand expectations, would never do

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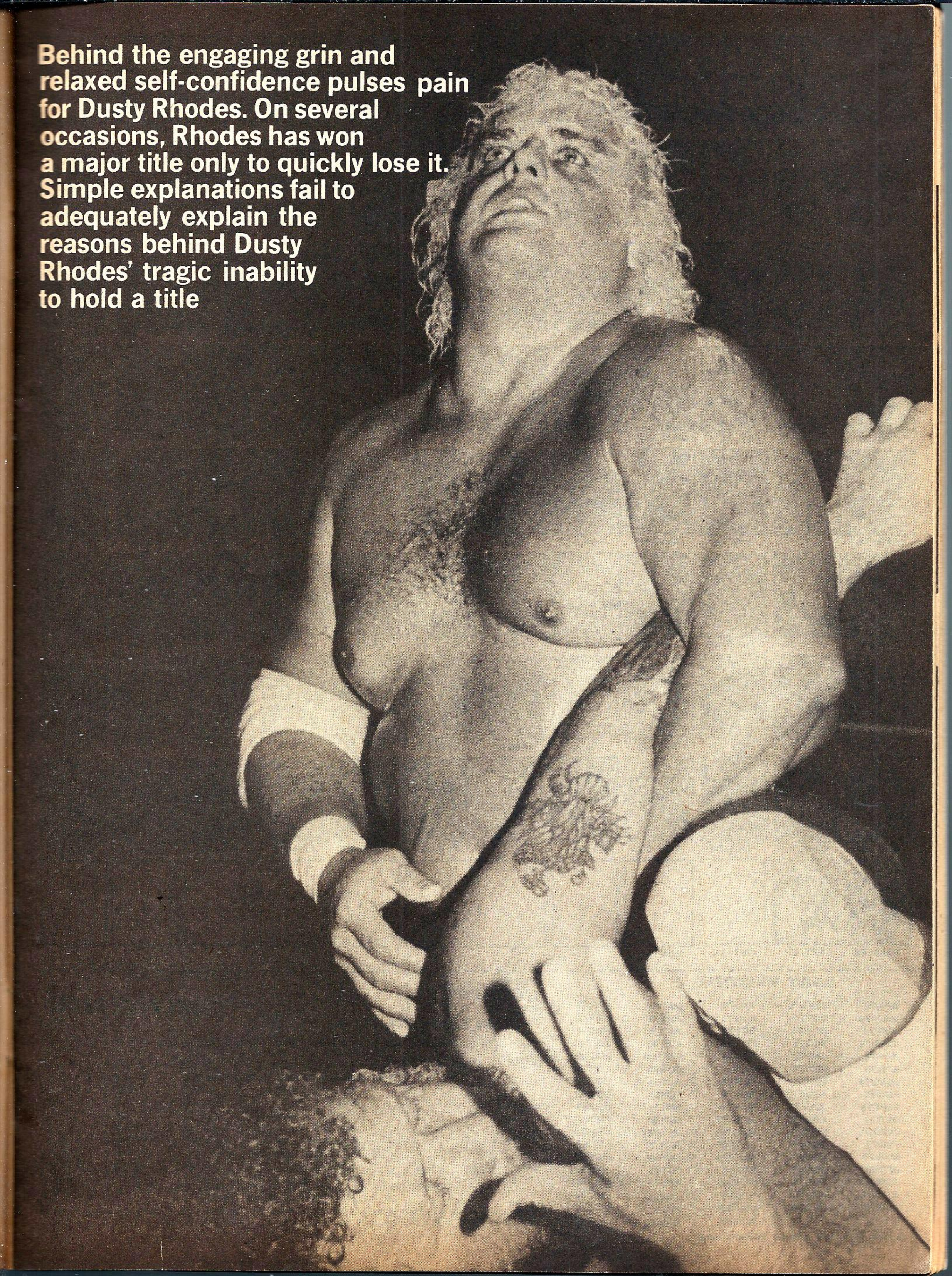
Rhodes connects with an elbowsmash from the top turnbuckle, but Race's feet were under the ropes.

DUSTY RHODES: THE MAN WHO CANNOT BE CHAMPION



Behind the engaging grin and relaxed self-confidence pulses pain for Dusty Rhodes. On several occasions, Rhodes has won a major title only to quickly lose it. Simple explanations fail to adequately explain the reasons behind Dusty Rhodes' tragic inability to hold a title

Why Ernie Ladd Says...
"I'M TIRED OF BEING YOUR KING"

BY ERNIE LADD

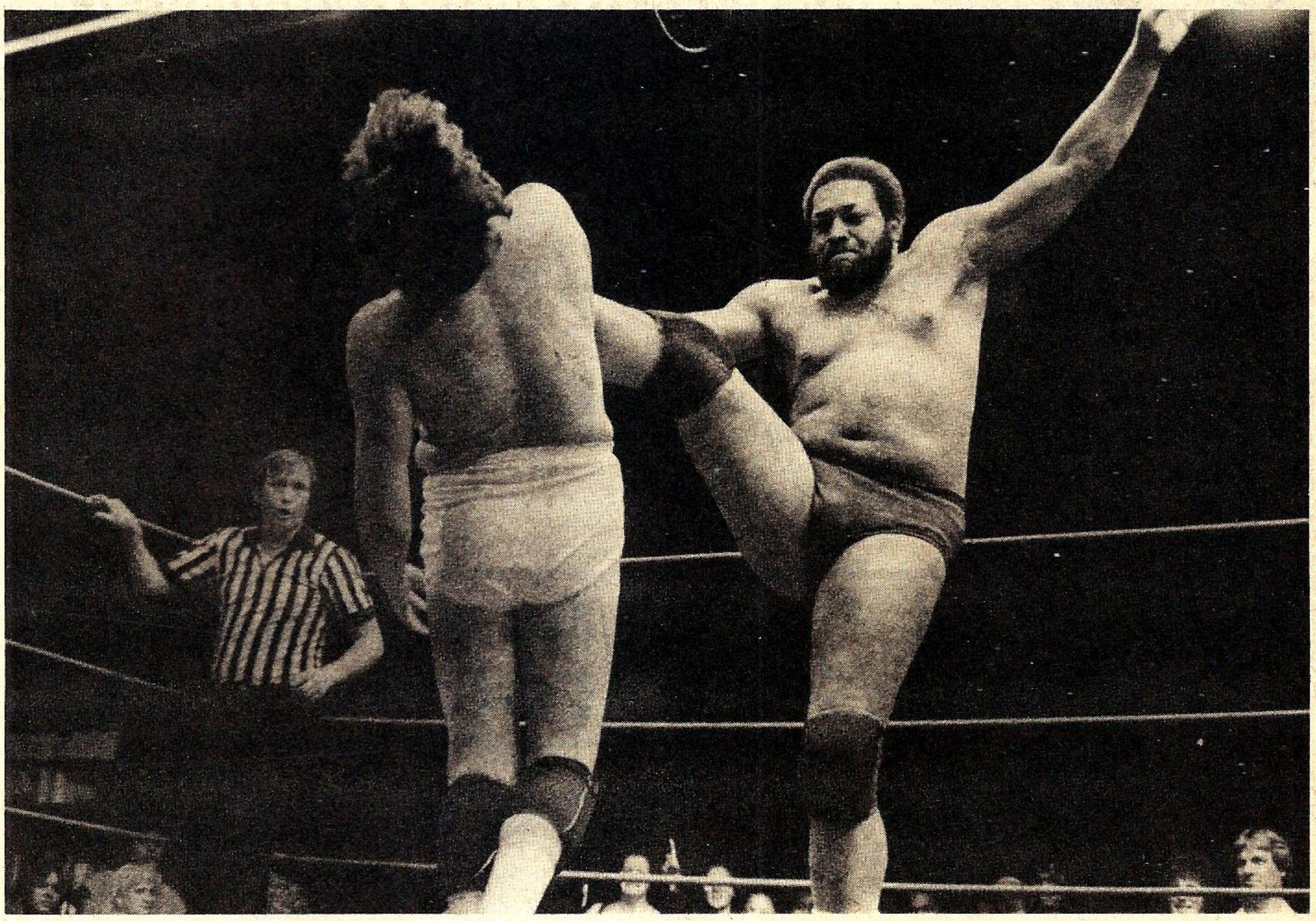
I have been your King for a long time. Under my benevolent rule, the crops have flourished, industry has boomed, all you peasants rejoiced. Surely I have been a wonderful King.

Alas, I have sad news for you ignorant subjects. Your King no longer wishes to be King. Wait, do not weep, do not grow hysterical. Allow me to explain.

A King's job is never done. In most professions, you can punch a clock and leave. Once home, you can relax, kick your shoes off, have a beer, watch television, read a biography of me, whatever, your day is done. Not so with a King.

I awake every morning at five

(Continued on page 50)

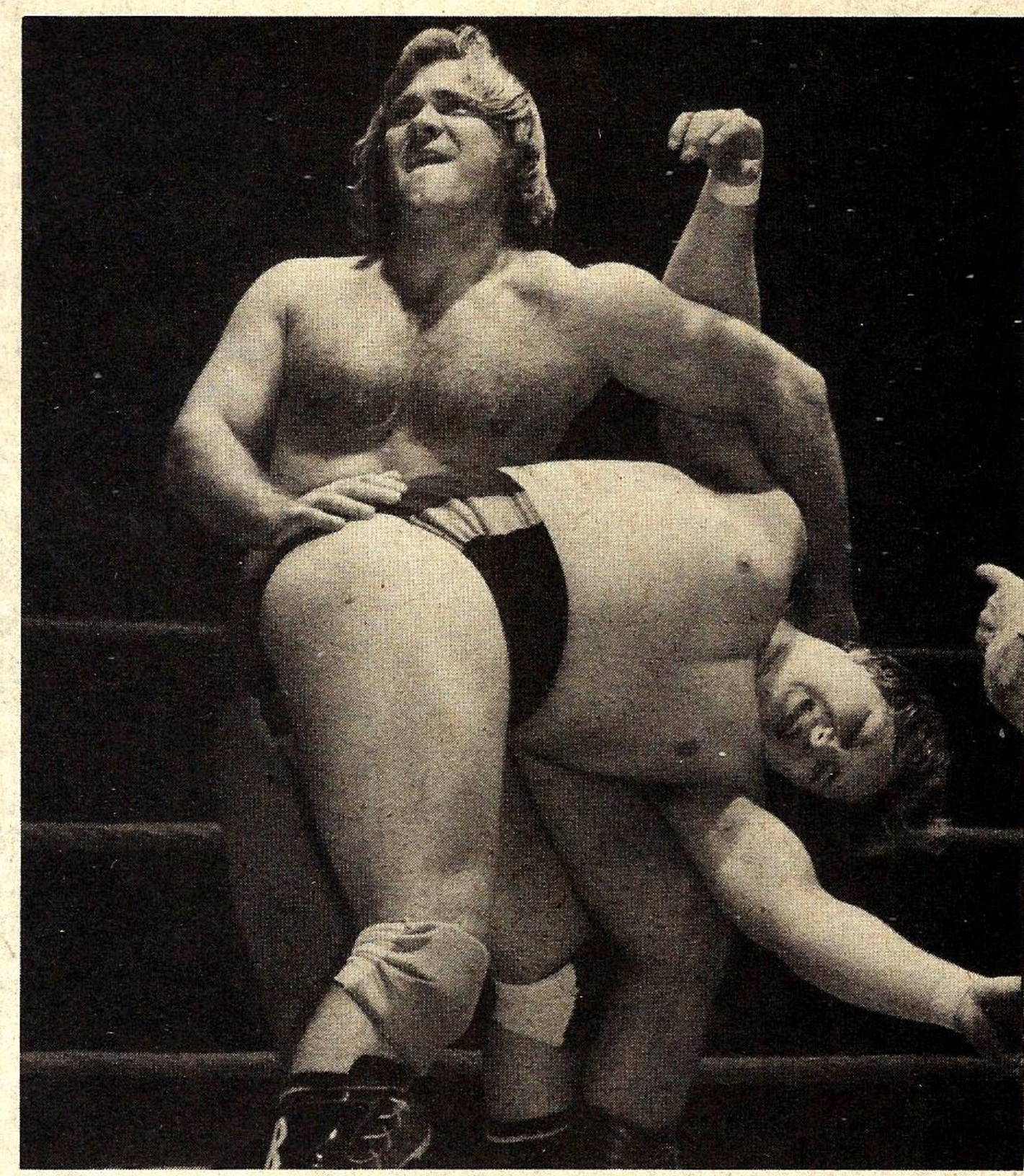


Arrogant and conceited, Ernie Ladd contends he rules all of wrestling. Many interpret his reign as vicious, egomaniacal, and sadistic. Obviously, Ladd has a different interpretation. In this article, Ladd explains his weariness with the throne

SUPER STAR INTERVIEW

LARRY ZBYSZKO

HE CALLS HIMSELF the "New Living Legend," doing so primarily as a slap in the face to his former mentor, Bruno Sammartino. More than three years ago, Larry Zbyszko demanded a match with his teacher and left him in a pool of blood after hitting him over the head with a chair. The feud between Zbyszko and Sammartino has been one of wrestling's most notorious conflicts. Early in 1983, Zbyszko entered the Georgia wrestling area and quickly purchased the National title from Killer Brooks for $25,000. The NWA stripped Zbyszko of the title, but the New Living Legend recaptured the title in a major tournament held in The Omni in Atlanta. Mr. Wrestling II recently stole the belt belt from Zbyszko, but World Championship Wrestling and the NWA still recognize Zbyszko as the champion of record. He's egotistical, brash, abrasive, and one of the most dangerous men inside the wrestling ring. Senior Editor Bill Apter recently interviewed Zbyszko in Atlanta after a taping of "World Championship Wrestling."



Zbyszko traps Bruno Sammartino Jr. in an abdominal stretch. Bruno Jr. replaced his father in the vicious feud with Zbyszko after Bruno Sr. retired. Zbyszko maintains that Bruno Jr. is avoiding him.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY BILL APTER

Q: Larry, why do you call yourself the New Living Legend?

A: Very simply, Bill, so you and your readers will understand, I call myself the New Living Legend because that's precisely what I am. You see, Bruno Sammartino was once considered to be a legend in the wrestling world, but that was almost 20 years ago. That was Bruno's time to bask in the glory, but his time is long gone. You see, someone had to come along and redefine the term "Legend," as far as wrestling is concerned, and I have done that. I am a legend in every sense of the word. Bruno's time is gone, I have seen

to that by driving him out of wrestling. Now he cowers in retirement while his son travels everywhere in the world except the cities where I happen to be at the time. They're both afraid of me. I have filled the void left by Bruno, I have taken on the mantle of "Legend" and have given it new meaning.

Q: Isn't that rather egotistical?

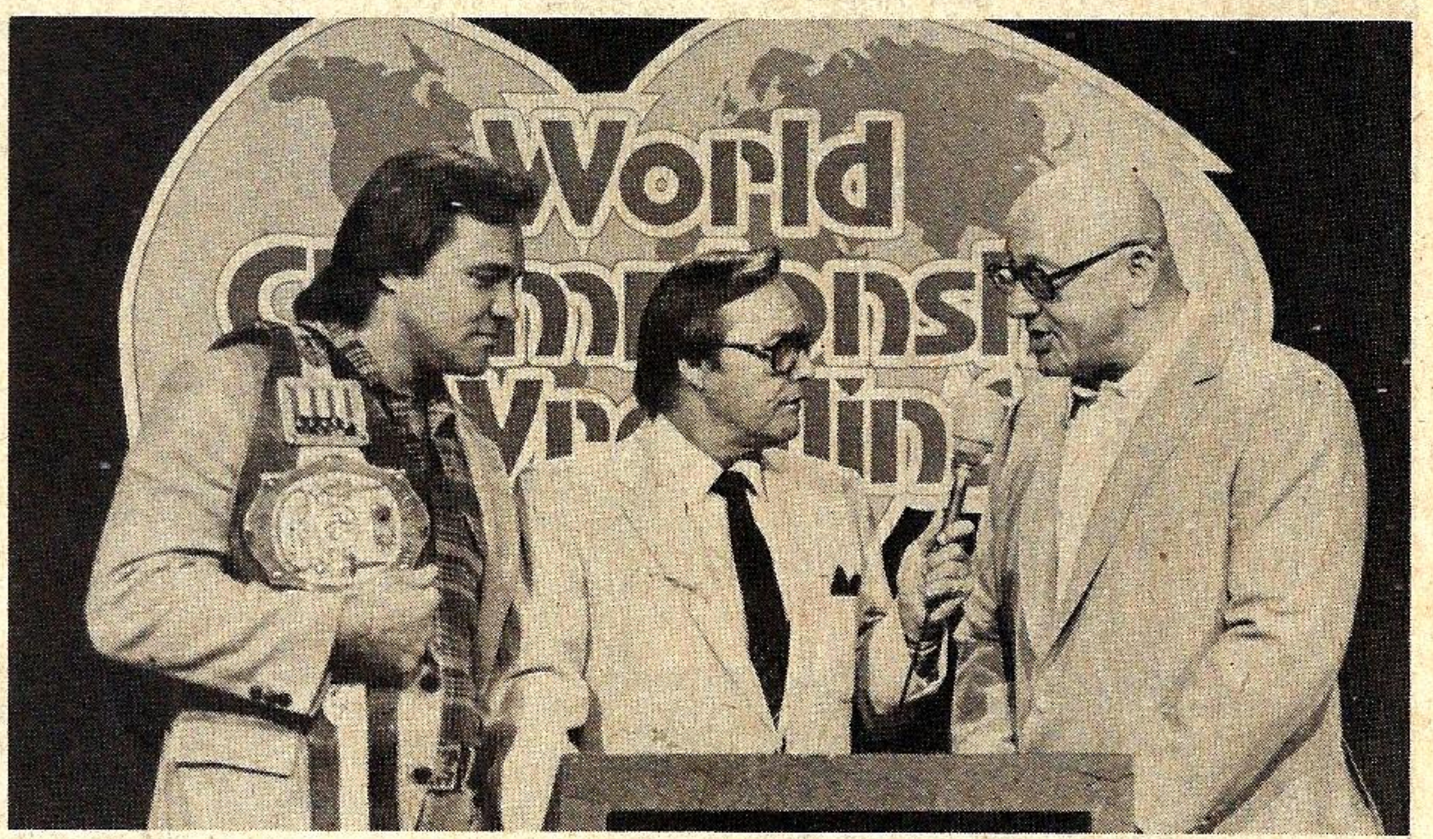
A: Egotistical? I don't think so. You see, Bill, being a legend isn't easy. It's a great burden upon my shoulders. So if I sound egotistical to you, or to the readers, it's simply because I am attempting to convey the massive responsibility of the job that faces me every day when I wake up: to fulfill the qualities that a legend must fulfill.

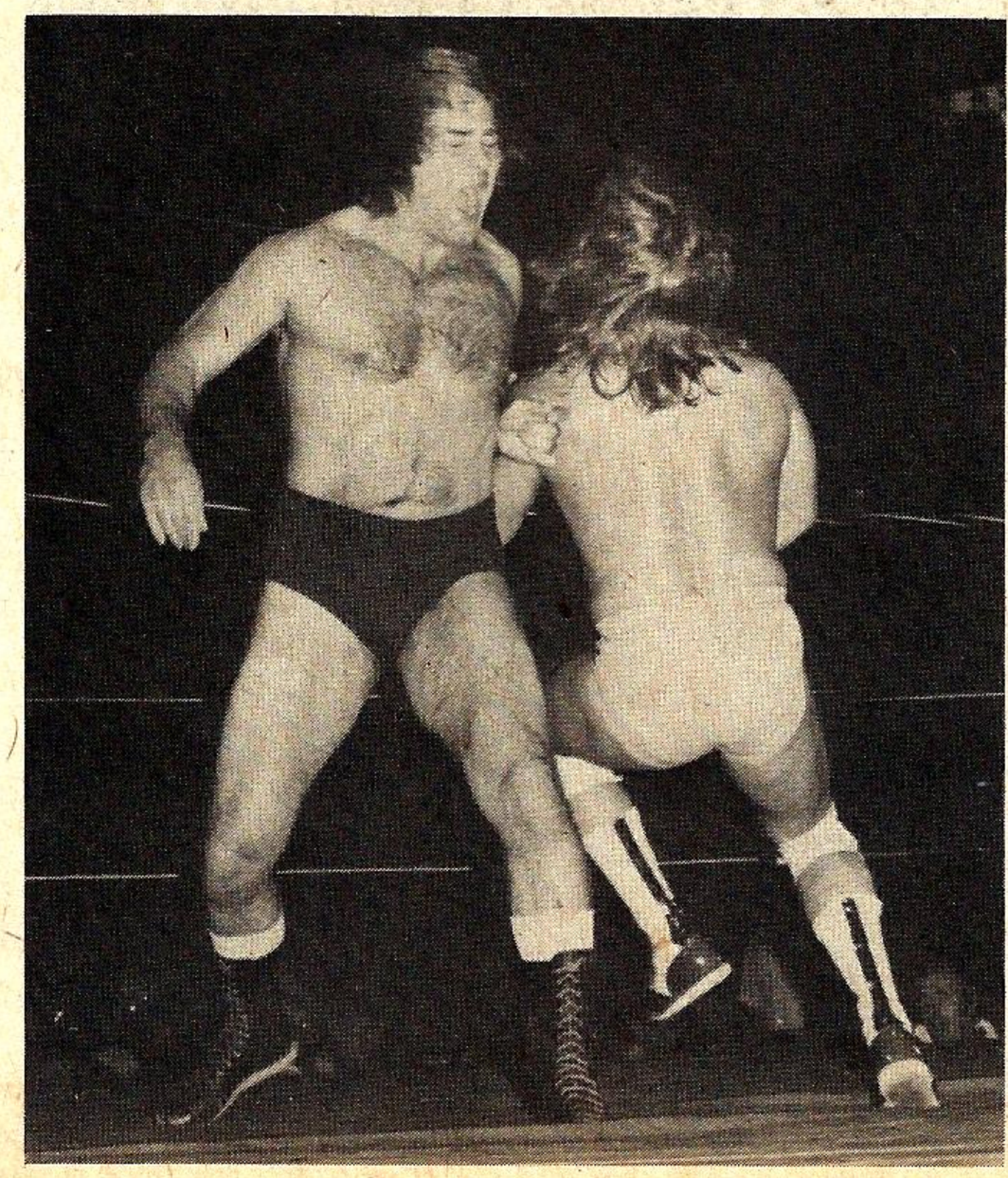
Q: Do you think a man deserving of the label "Legend" would have paid $25,000 for a title without wrestling for that title?

A: Men become legends in vastly different ways. Jesse James is a legend, and he spent his life as a thief. I am not a thief. I engaged in a perfectly sound and legal business deal with Killer Brooks. He won the National belt from Paul Orndorff, and I bought it from him. It's that simple. Paul Orndorff wouldn't consent to wrestle me, he wouldn't sign a contract, so I had to get the title another way. Then the NWA decided to cancel my business deal illegally. I still have my lawyers working on this case. The wheels of law turn slowly, as you know, and there may not be any kind of a decision in this case for several years, but I haven't forgotten. I'll get my $25,000 back from the NWA someday, I'm sure of it.

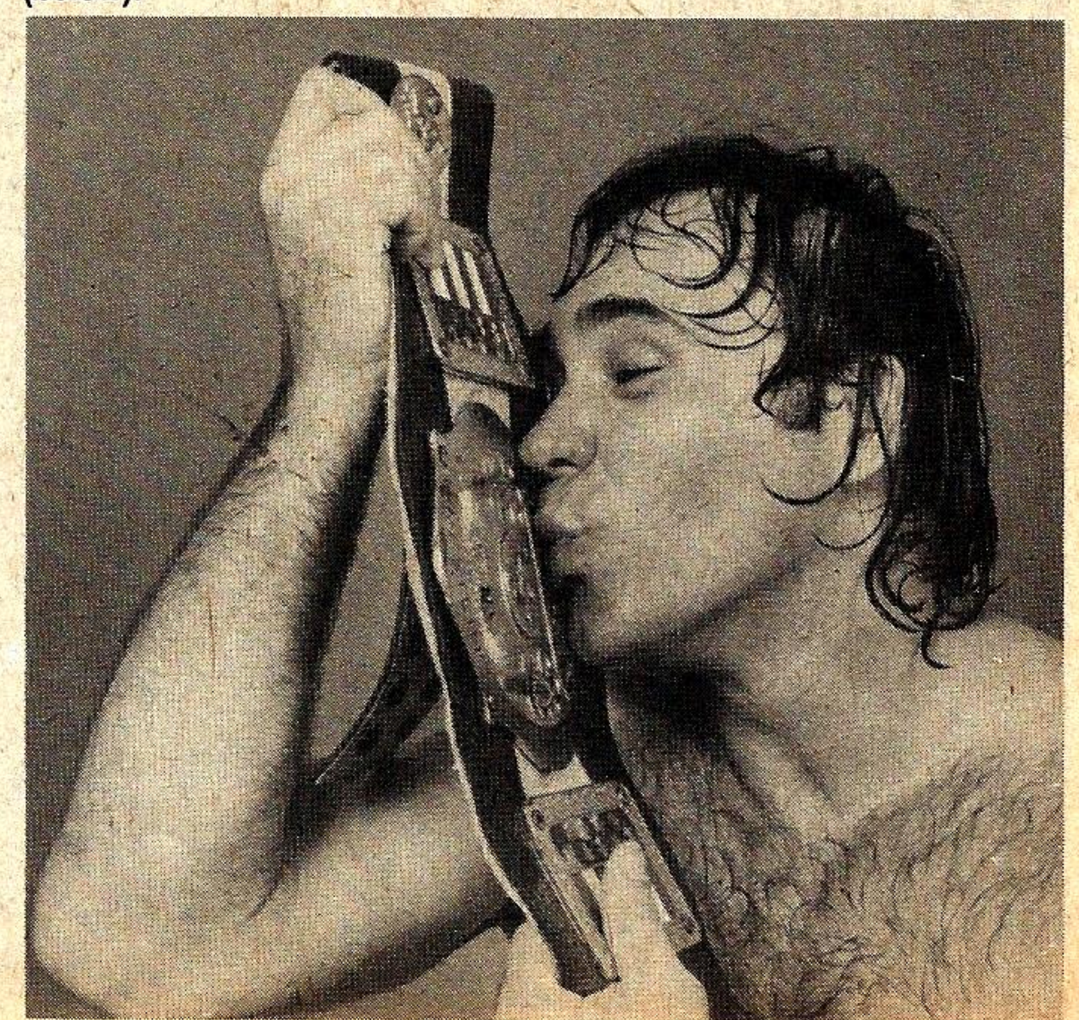
Q: How do you feel about Mr. Wrestling II taking the National belt and defending it around the country?

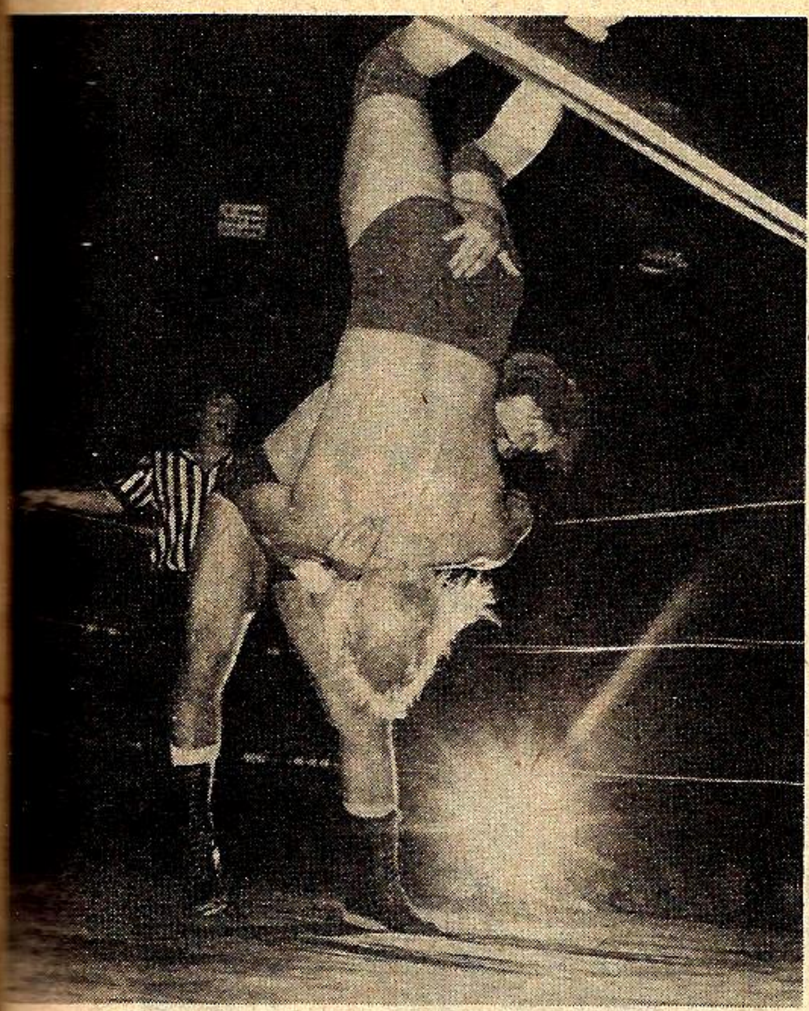
A: As I said earlier, I am not Jesse James, I am not a thief. Mr. Wrestling II is a thief. He stole the belt from me, plain and simple, and now he has the nerve, the unmitigated gall to take my belt and defend it around the country. You know, Mr. Wrestling II has always been bragging all through his career about sportsmanship, fair play, honesty, and the rest of it. So why does he do this to me? Even World Championship Wrestling and the NWA, which stripped me of the title unfairly at one time, still recognizes me as the National champion. And Mr. Wrestling II





NWA President Bob Geigel informs Zbyszko that he will have to forfeit the National title he bought from Killer Brooks (above). Larry defeats Brett Wayne en route to legitimately winning the belt in the tournament (left). Zbyszko did not keep his cherished belt for long (below).





Zbyszko's anticipated feud with Tommy Rich never fully materialized. Zbyszko and Mr. Wrestling II have become hated rivals.

has my belt. Pure robbery. All of Wrestling II's talk about honesty and fair play gets flushed right down the toilet, as far as I'm concerned, and any right-thinking wrestling fans should feel just as I do about this subject. The only thing that *really* disturbs me about the whole situation is the fact that the NWA isn't taking action against Mr. Wrestling II as quickly as it did against me.

Q: Why do you think that is?

A: Who knows? Maybe Wrestling II has the officials of the NWA in his hip pocket, I really don't know. But I have my lawyers working on that situation as well.

Q: It seems to me that you're taking a lot of legal action lately.

A: Damn straight, because I've been wronged a lot lately. I was stripped of the National belt unfairly, and now that belt, which represents the National championship—and I am the recognized National champion—has been taken away from me. If I didn't know better, I'd say there was a conspiracy against me, because everywhere I turn I seem to get it right in the back. But I know better. There's no conspiracy, there's only greedy, sneaky Mr. Wrestling

(Continued on page 58)

COMING OCTOBER 4 . . .

WRESTLING 83

More Than A Wrestling Magazine!

Be sure to head for your newsstands on October 4, because the slickest, most colorful wrestling magazine ever will go on sale—***WRESTLING 83***. It's the debut issue of the most awaited wrestling publication ever. Pages of **FULL-COLOR ACTION & PORTRAITS** of wrestling's greatest stars, plus excellence in the tradition of **Pro Wrestling Illustrated**, **The Wrestler**, and **Inside Wrestling** make ***WRESTLING 83*** the magazine event of the year. More than a year in the planning, ***WRESTLING 83*** will deliver pages of color, action, and enjoyment unequaled anywhere. You've heard the talk about ***WRESTLING 83*** for months. On October 4, you will see for yourself.

HERE'S A LOOK INSIDE THE DEBUT ISSUE:

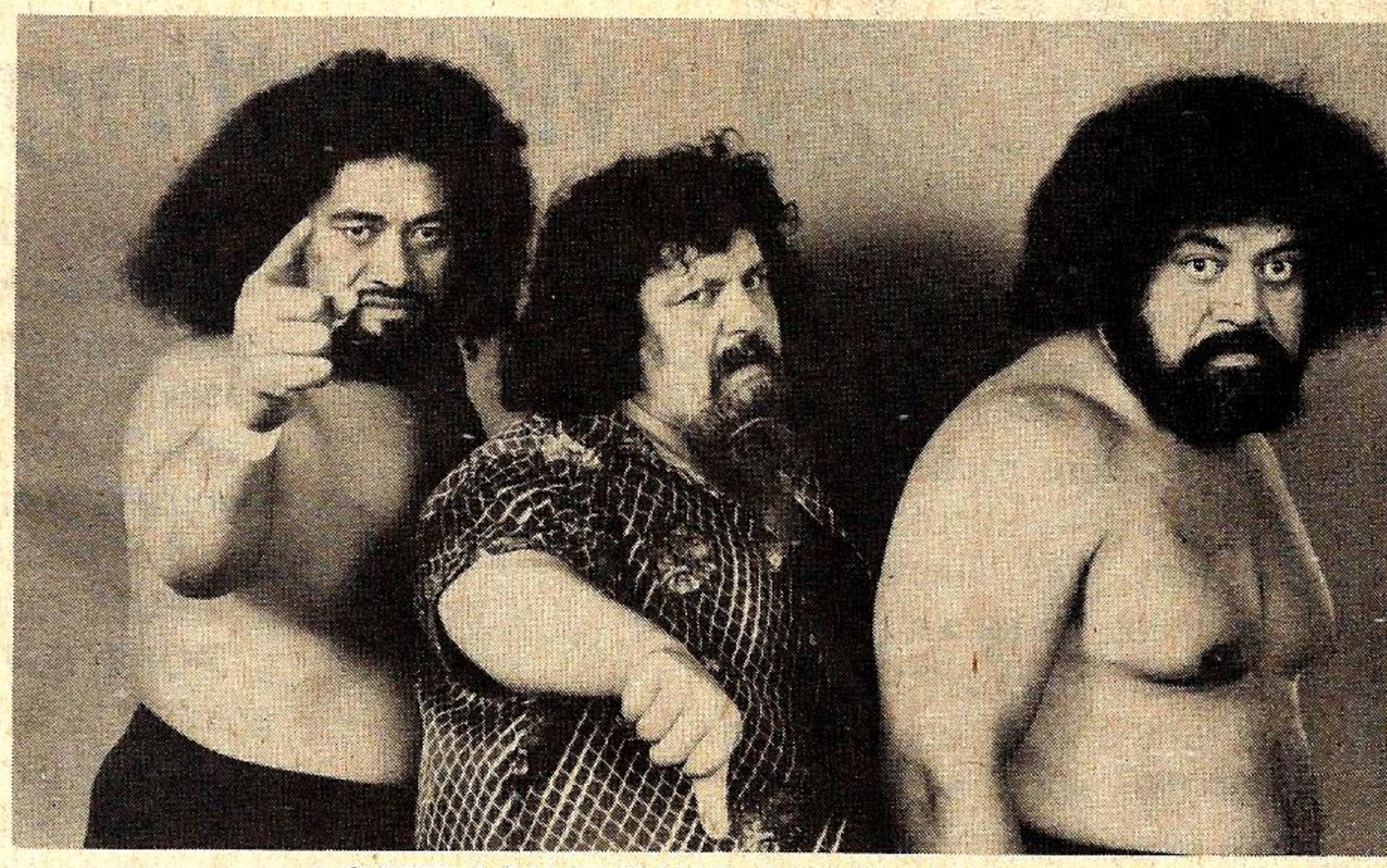
- **Full-length color features on Hulk Hogan, Tommy Rich, Ric Flair, and Harley Race**
- **Coverage of the horribly sadistic brawl between Jimmy Valiant and The Great Kabuki**
- **A sizzling interview with the undefeated Andre the Giant**
- **The experts pick the winner of a dream match between Bob Backlund and Superfly Snuka**
- **Our cameras bring you to the home of the legendary Mr. Wrestling II**
- **A column written by controversial wrestling manager Precious Paul Ellering**
- **Plus columns and features never before seen in a wrestling magazine**

SUPER STAR QUOTEBOOK

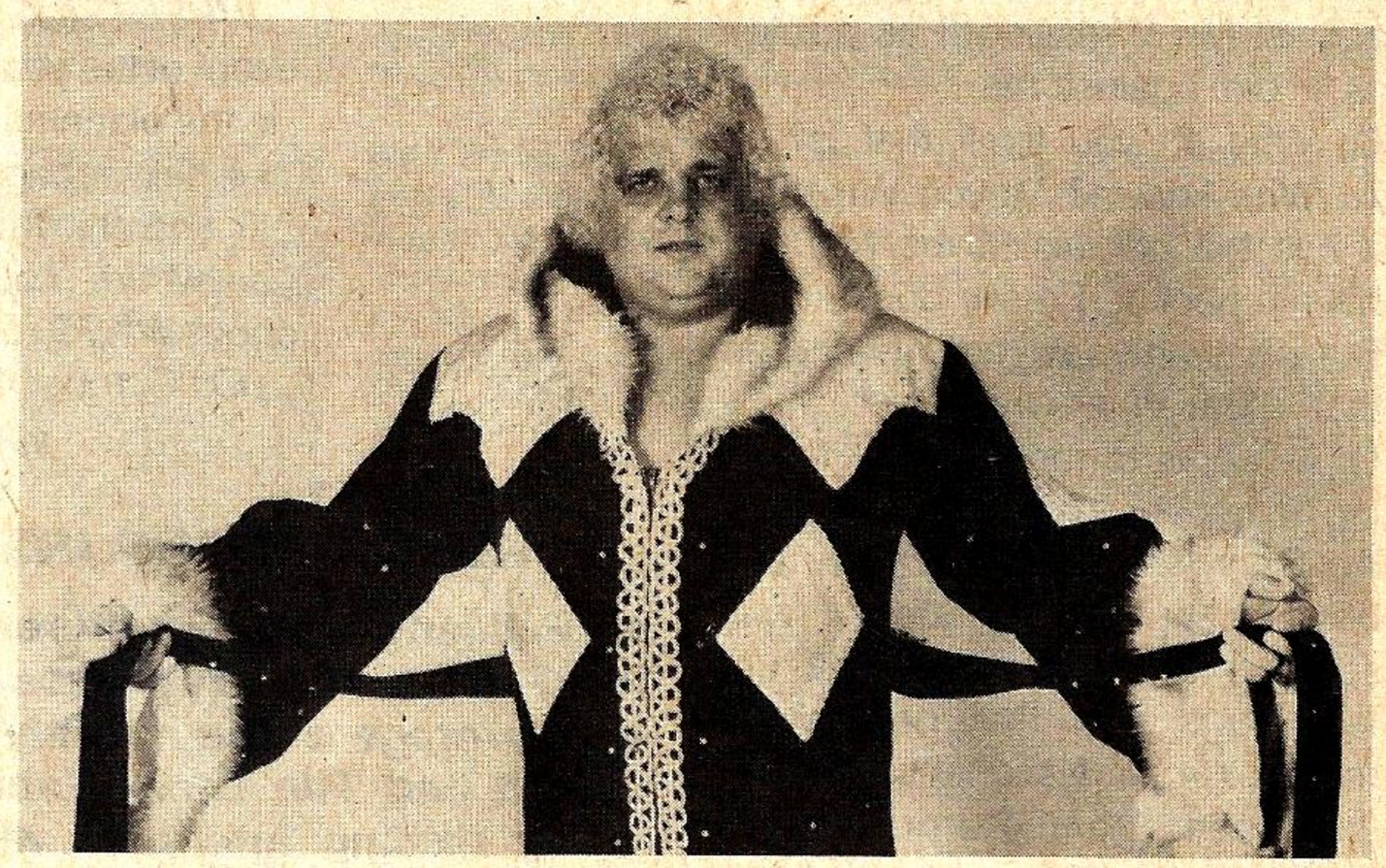
NICK BOCKWINKEL: "Mil Mascaras thought he captured the AWA title from me. *Hah!* Doesn't he realize that his friend Chavo Guerrero isn't an authorized referee? Just because Chavo puts on a striped shirt and counts to three doesn't mean that Mascaras is entitled to the belt. If I were Mascaras, I'd be damn mad at Chavo. He cost Mil the match! Isn't friendship wonderful! Tough luck, Mascaras!"

DUSTY RHODES: "I don't care. It doesn't matter to me. If Ron Bass wants to slap me around some because he's frustrated, that's okay. I've known Ron for years, we grew up together, and I know that he's just got to blow off a little steam. I don't mind taking a little pain because of it; what's a little pain between friends? Besides, I know that once he gets it out of his system, Ron will be back to his old self again . . . I hope."

CAPT. LOU ALBANO: "They're The Samoans, daddy, they're the top tag team in the world today, the best of the best, the greatest of the great, the men who can't be beaten by any other pair of wrestlers in the sport, daddy, and they're mine, all mine, they belong to the Captain, the championship belts belong to the Captain, and the belts will stay around the waists of The Samoans for a long time to come, and don't you forget it!"



CAPT. LOU ALBANO & SAMOANS



DUSTY RHODES

BUTCH REED: "Listen, why should I bow and scrape to somebody like Junkyard Dog? Bull! I defeated him for the North American heavyweight belt, and that proves everything I have to prove to him. I've defeated him for the belt, I've defeated him in rematches, and I've still got the title. If he can't understand how much of a better wrestler I am, then he's a hell of a lot more stupid than he looks."

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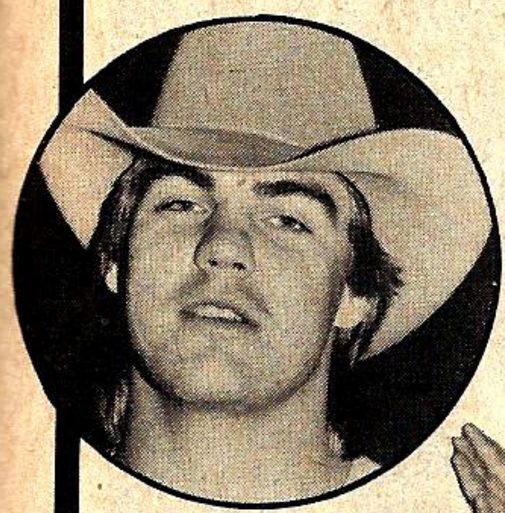
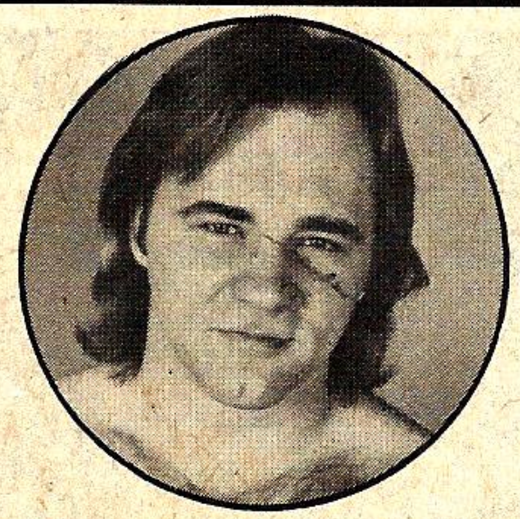
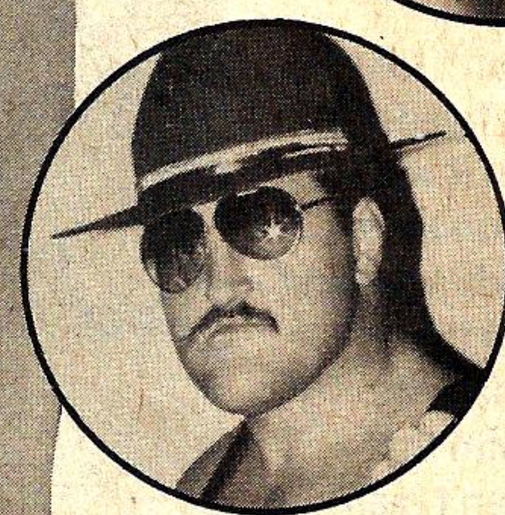
Bobby Heenan's Most Wanted List

"THE MEN I WANT TO MANAGE"

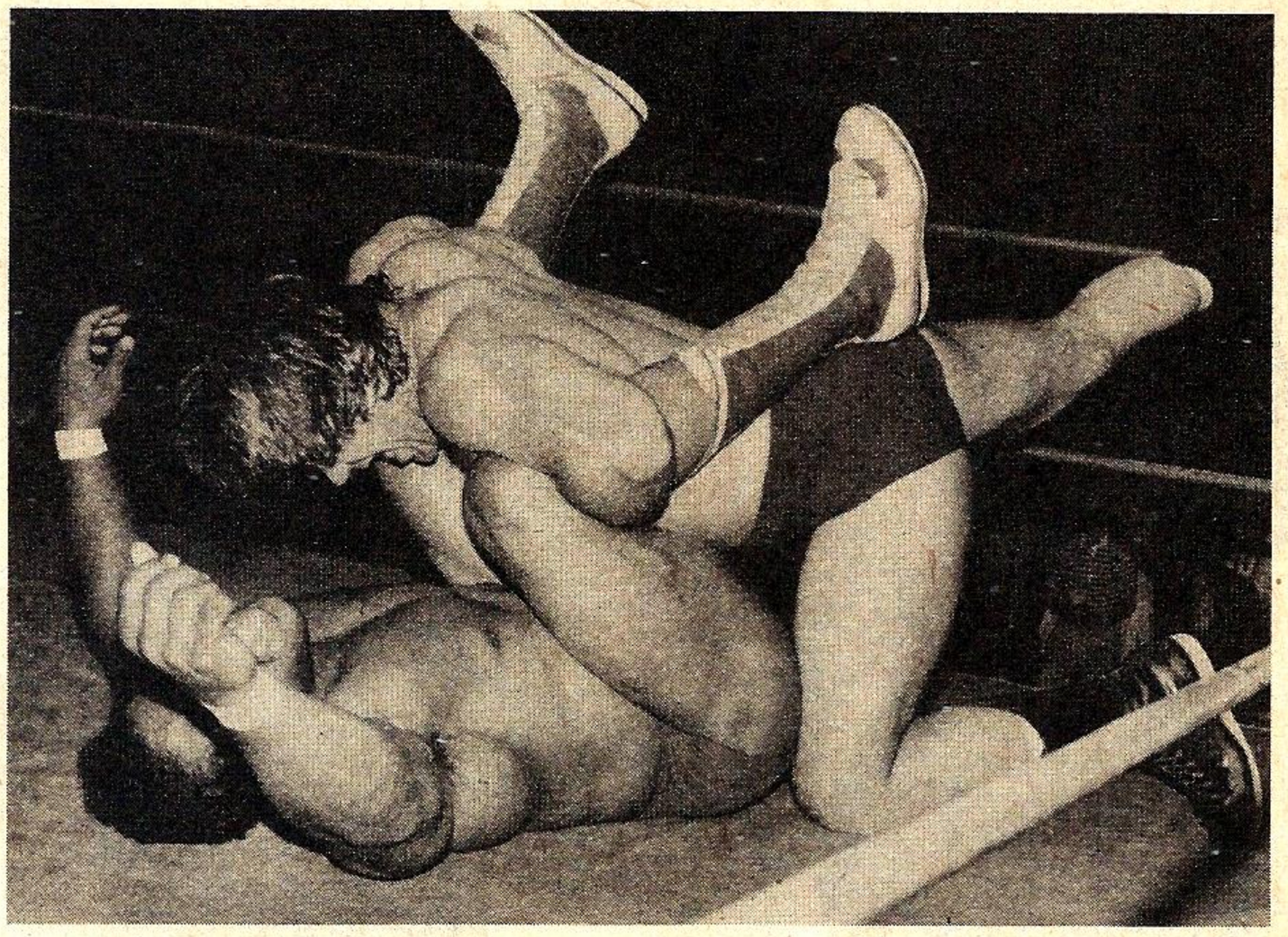


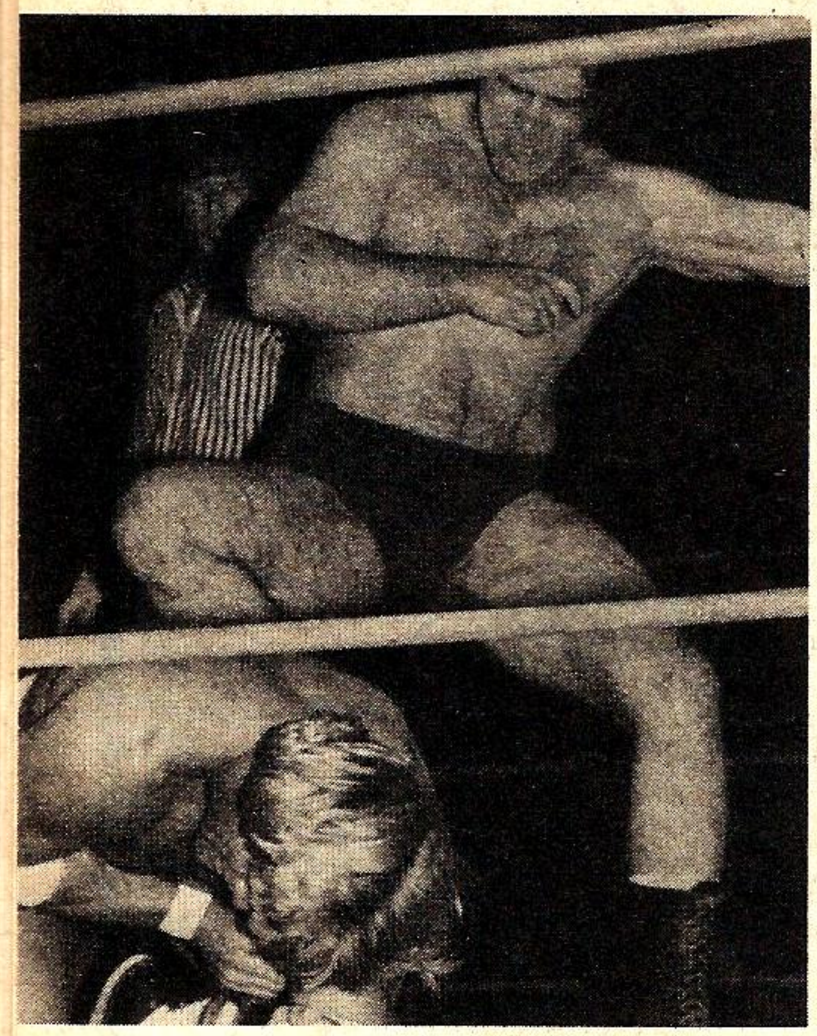
Bobby "The Brain" Heenan has developed a worldwide reputation by guiding Nick Bockwinkel through three AWA heavyweight championship title reigns. Bockwinkel has benefited greatly from Heenan's managerial genius, but there are others who could benefit as well. In this exclusive *Wrestling Superstars* feature, Heenan reveals whom he might like to manage in the future and why

LARRY ZBYSZKO

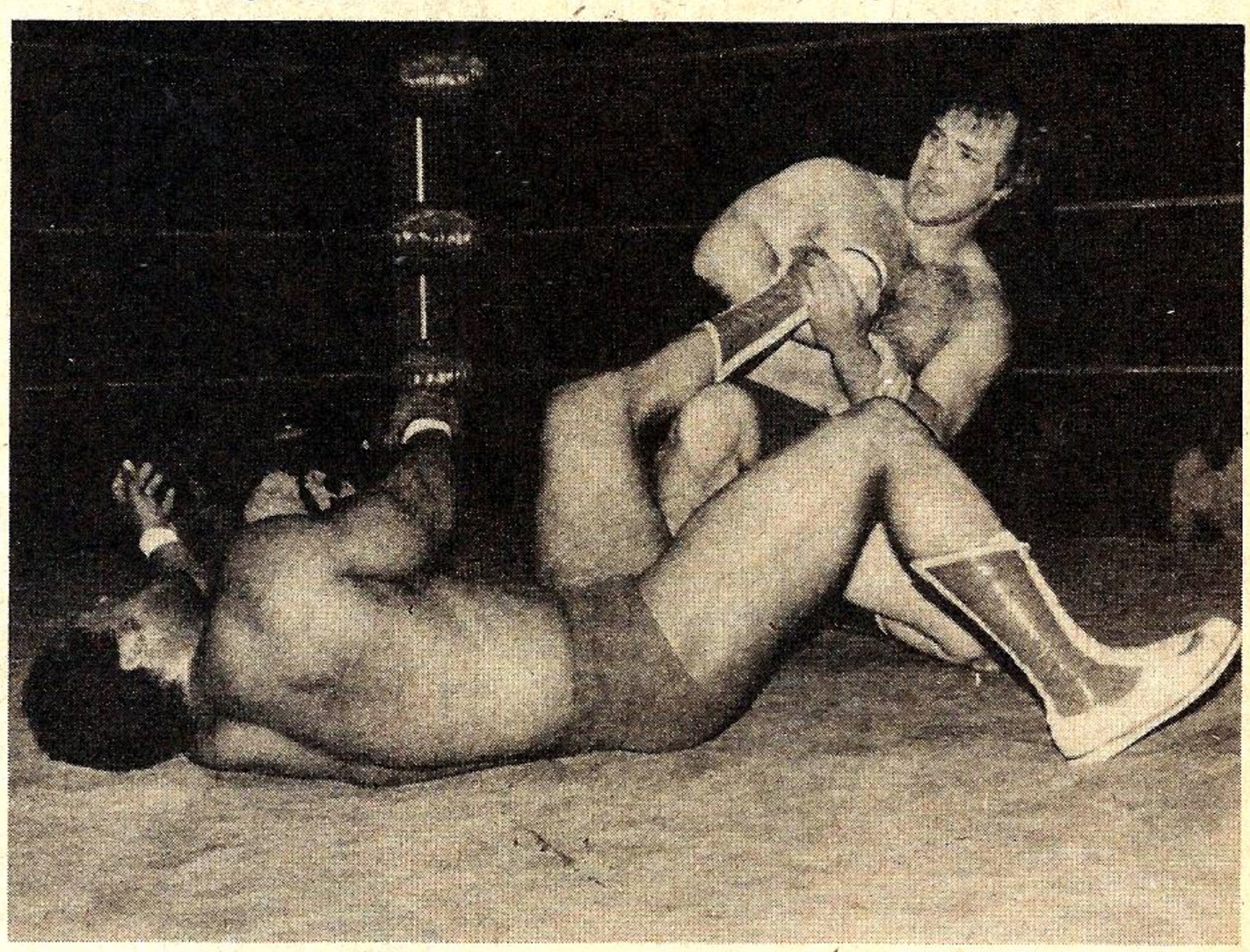
"It would take me two years to make Zbyszko NWA champion, perhaps less."

IT'S EXCITING TO think about what I could do with Zbyszko right now. He's at the time of his career when he's ambitious enough to win it all. Unfortunately, he lacks the subtle skills that I could teach him. Larry wasted too much time early in his career trying to be a wimp in the Sammartino style. He needs a brilliant wrestling mind such as mine to correct those early mistakes.





Left: Larry Zbyszko's shin smash has Paul Orndorff crying out in pain. Above and below: Zbyszko concentrates on weakening Tony Atlas' legs by alternately compressing and stretching the leg muscles.



At present, Zbyszko can't take advantage of his newfound freedom. He can't appreciate what is available to him. I think he may be the kind of wrestler who needs a guiding hand. That would explain those wasted years with Sammartino. There's nothing wrong with that. Nick Bockwinkel, the man I managed to an AWA championship, also needs someone in control. He needs to hear from someone else what limits to set and what strategies will not work. Zbyszko is obviously from the same mold.

It would take me two years to make Zbyszko NWA champion, perhaps less. In many ways he is physically like Nick. People underestimate his physical gifts, and that works to his advantage. I would continue to disguise those gifts, keeping the opposition guessing. Larry's best moves will be ones that seem lucky. Many people can't appreciate that Nick's success is carefully planned—and that's what we work to make them think. Larry should be guided in the same way.

I don't think Larry will ever get to be NWA champion without a top manager. As I am the top manager, I'm the only one able to make him realize his potential.

RODDY PIPER

"It would be exciting working with a man who can think like Piper."

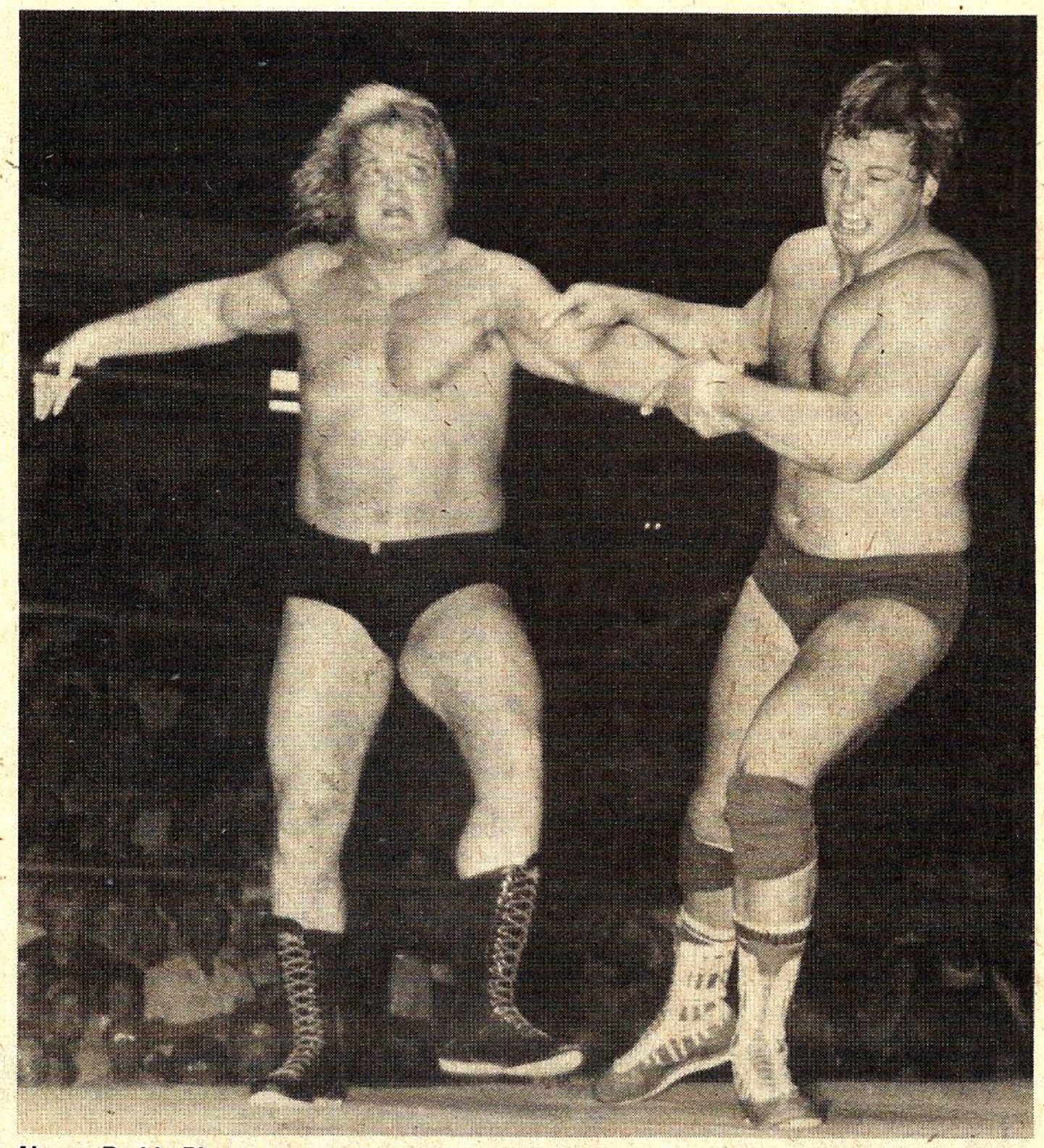
NOW THAT WOULD be a challenge. Piper is the most egotistical wrestler I've ever met, and that's saying something. His natural reaction would be to dismiss any instruction, figuring he knows what's best. It's hard to argue with him about that, considering the success he's enjoyed.

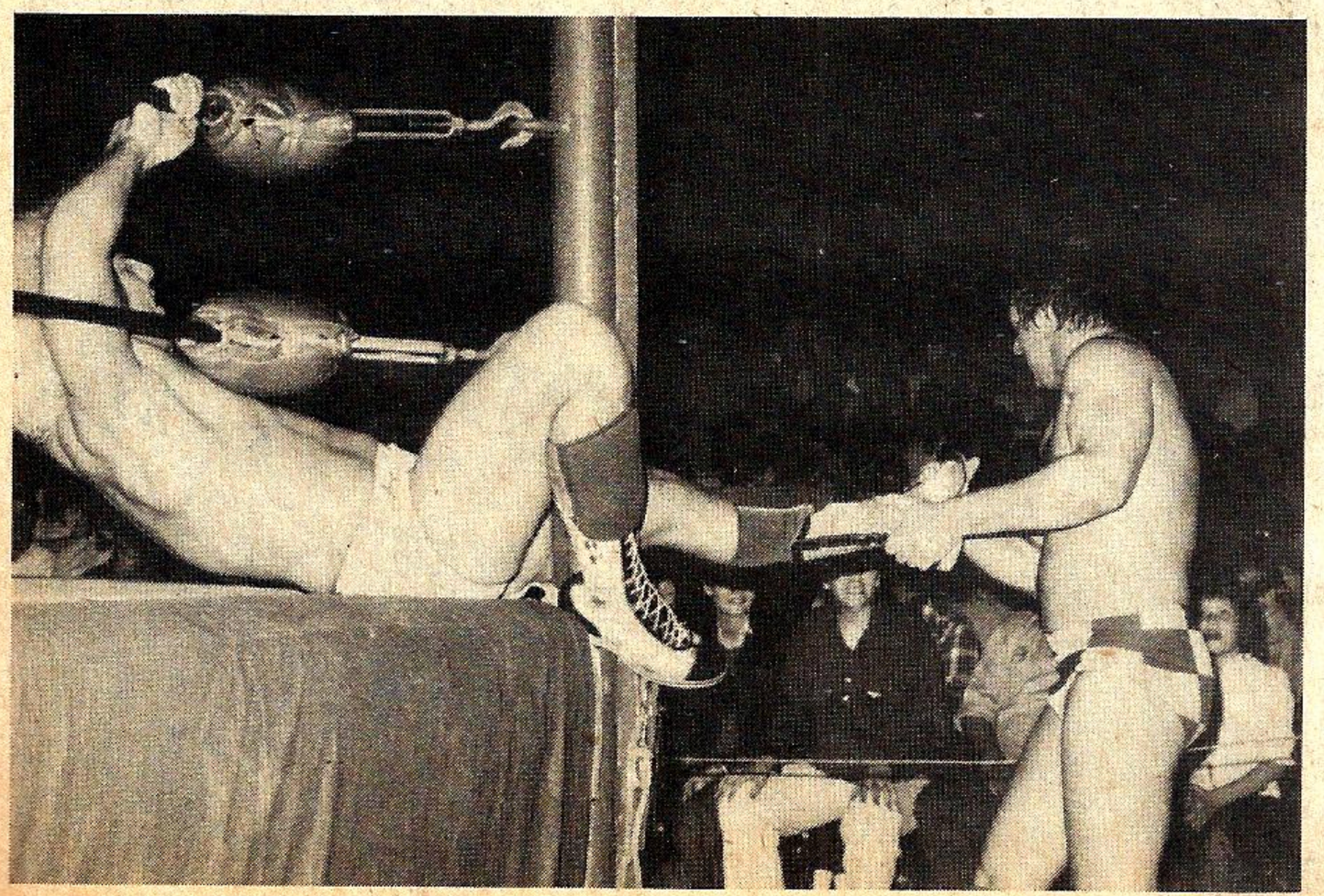
Despite what he thinks, however, he's not perfect. There are many areas in which he could stand improvement. I won't go into them now because I expect to be paid by the wrestler for that kind of analysis. Just let's say that Piper wastes too much energy, especially when he believes himself to be in trouble.

I must admit I'd like to manage Piper because of his mind. It would be exciting working with a man who can think like Piper. Putting our brains together could cause shockwaves throughout wrestling. As a professional, I've admired Piper's complex strategies. It would be a pleasure to work on them with him.

The main problem with Piper is that he refuses to recognize his limitations. He has developed strategies that are brilliant but all wrong for him. He needs someone to tell him that he isn't the fastest or strongest guy around. Piper devises strategies for the perfect wrestler, which is how he thinks of himself. Instead, he should compensate for his limitations. With his mind and the natural gifts he possesses, all Piper needs is a little humility to make him unbeatable.

That's the function of a manager—force the wrestler to appreciate realities. Piper needs someone to scold him, and I'd love to be the man to do it. I don't think anyone else could. It would take the strongest will in wrestling to conquer the second strongest will, Piper's.





Above: Roddy Piper catapults Greg Valentine into the ring ropes. Below: Piper wraps then-NWA World champion Ric Flair's leg around the steel ringpost. Heenan admires Piper's complex ring strategies, and would like to help him develop those strategies to a further degree.

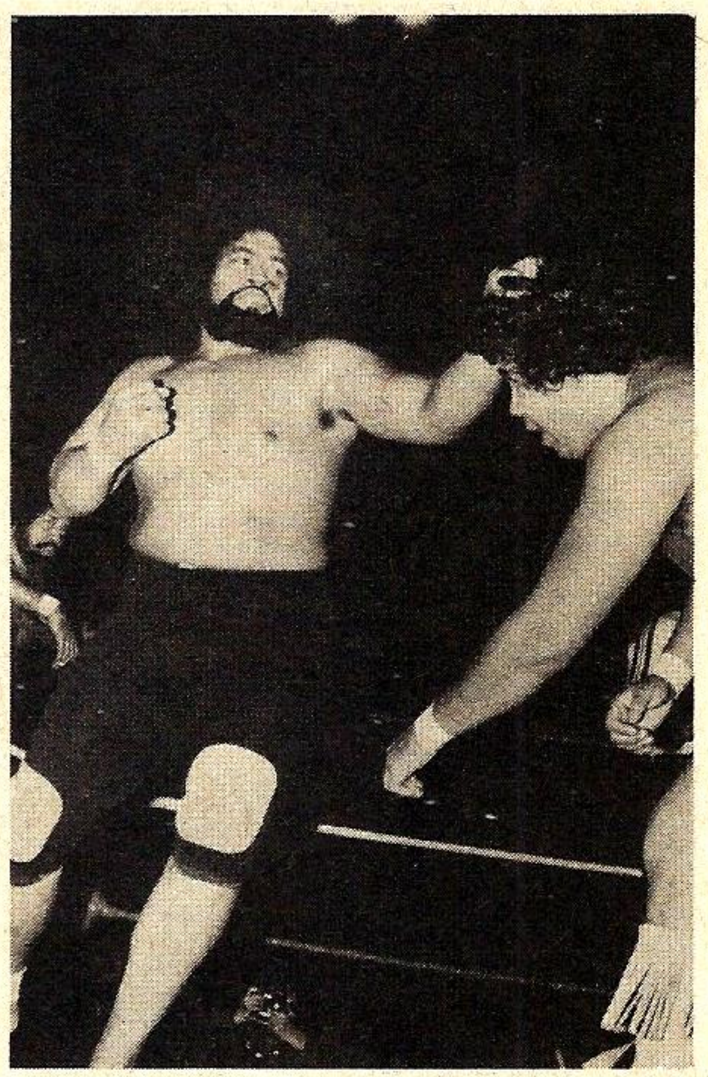
THE SAMOANS

"Any attempt to civilize [The Samoans] could destroy something very important."

THESE GUYS CAN become anything you want them to be. Knowing their manager, Lou Albano, I know they've become the tag team he's always wanted. While I have every respect for Albano and The Samoan's accomplishments, I'd be interested to see what I could do with them.

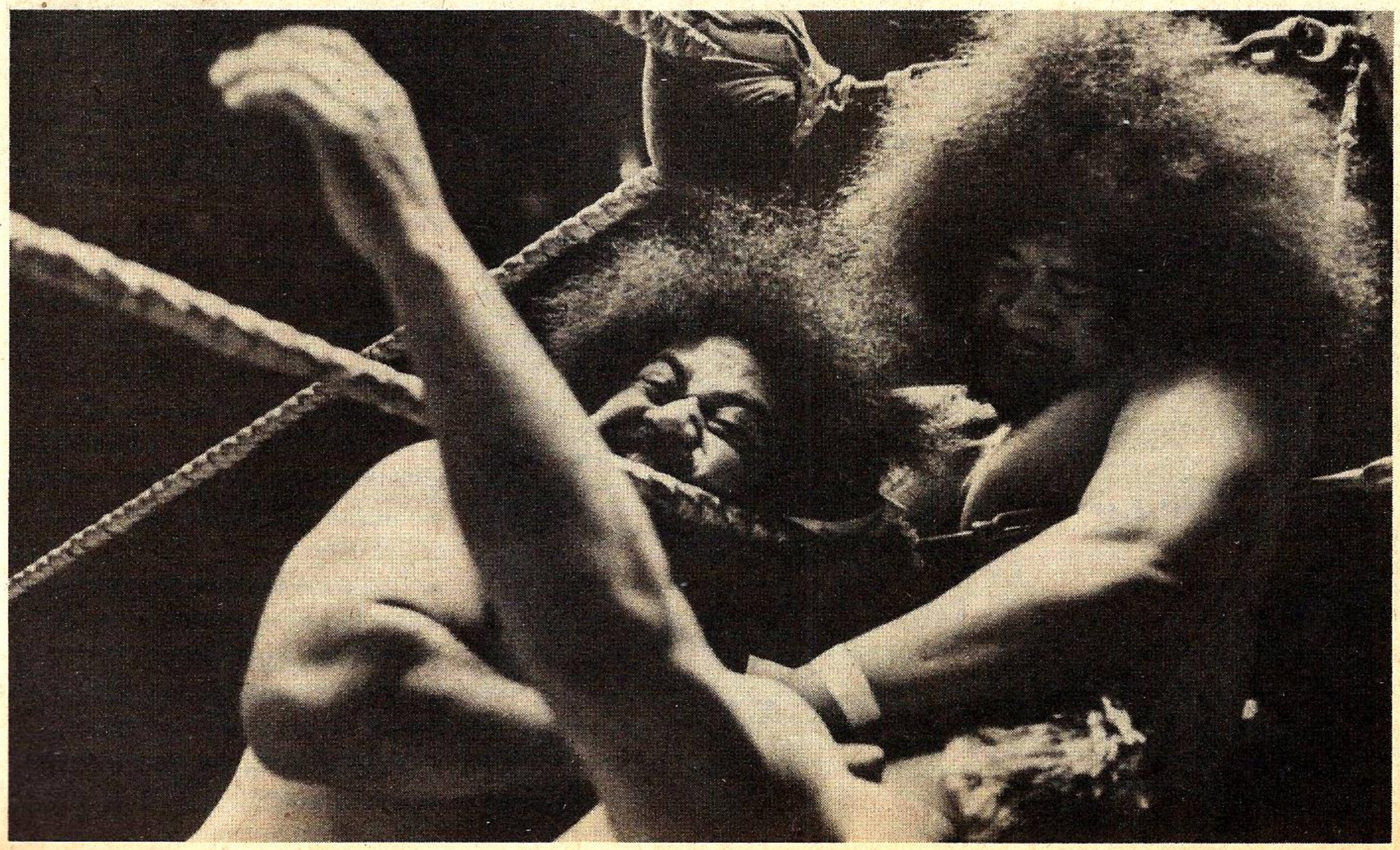
Whereas Albano has made them warriors, I'd like to see if I could make them wrestlers. Albano has exploited their power and natural savagery. I'd work on finding the brains behind the brawn, try to mold them into a precision machine. It could be impossible. I've talked with Lou about this pair and he claims he's given them all the polish they can master. While one must respect Lou's opinion, it's tempting to prove him wrong.

Granted, it would be risky fooling around with success. The Samoans' savagery might be intrinsic to their success. Any attempt to civilize could destroy something very important. My job as manager would be to explore that possibility. If I found my experiment was failing, I'd have to be ready to stop it before permanent damage occurred. It would take a sensitive man to accomplish this. Fortunately, when it comes to my wrestlers, I'm as sensitive as Superman to kryptonite. With any other manager, The Samoans could be irreparably harmed.



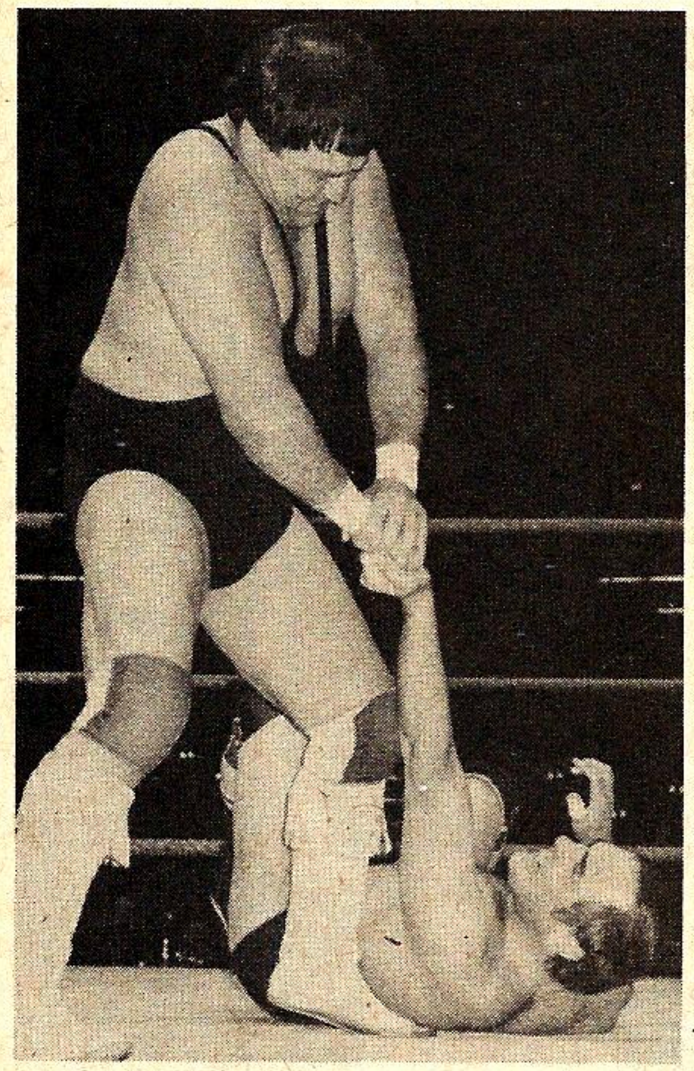
Above: Samoan Sika prepares to drive his fist into the forehead of Jules Strongbow. Below: Afa and Sika double-team Pat Patterson. Heenan doesn't ordinarily spend his time with tag teams, but should the opportunity arise to manage The Samoans, he might be persuaded to take on the task.

I would also keep a tight rein on The Samoans. Lou, being Lou, allows them too much freedom. Again, perhaps that is the way they function best, but I would try to introduce more discipline. I like to keep my wrestlers on a short leash. I think a manager should manage a wrestler in every area. The grappler should only be required to get into the ring and execute. The Samoans might benefit from someone telling them this sport does require obeying certain regulations.

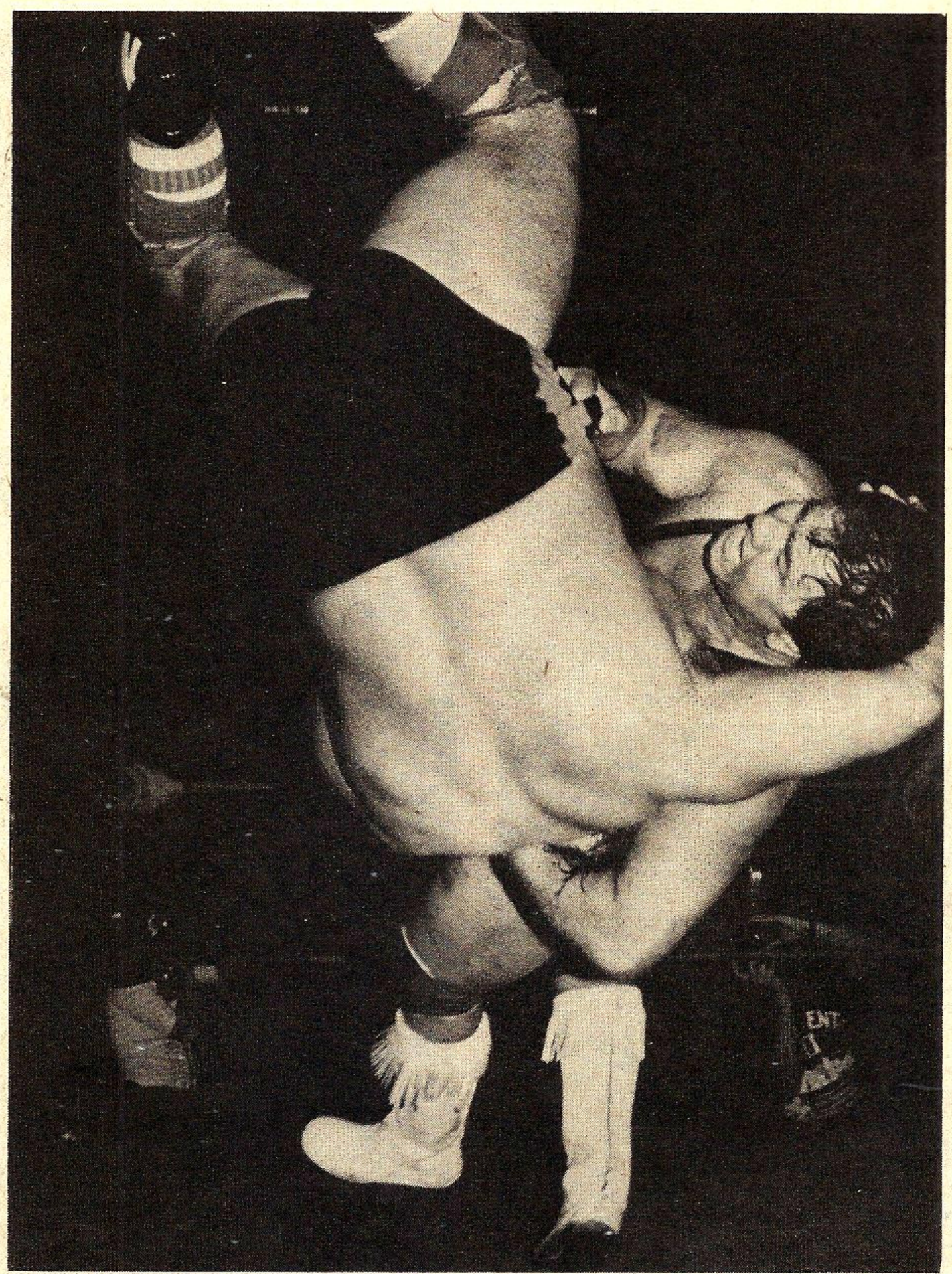


WAHOO McDANIEL

"Wahoo has never had anyone to force him to be great."



Wahoo McDaniel has John Tolos incapacitated with an armtwist.



Wahoo stuns Adrian Adonis with a suplex. Heenan knows the abilities and limitations of Wahoo; the Indian fan favorite has wrestled AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel many times. Heenan feels that if he ever joined forces with McDaniel, he could make valuable changes and improvements in his style.

ANY FOOL CAN mold a young, inexperienced wrestler into a contender. But to take a veteran set in his ways and mold him, that would be a task. Again, one would have to be sensitive to know what could and could not be changed. Trying too hard to impose your will could wreck the wrestler's career and be a waste of time for me.

Wahoo McDaniel is the toughest veteran around. He stays in the sport because he needs the sense of combat. Some men wrestle because the money is good, most don't really hate their opponents' guts, but Wahoo is different. He'd be just as happy meeting the guy in the back of an alley and settling their differences in private. That's his gift and his curse. If he cared more for the glory, a major title would be his for the taking. That's where I'd come in. I'd put blinders on the boy, concentrate all that rage into winning the world championship. Wahoo has never had anyone to force him to be great. He's pretty much stood there with a chip on his shoulder daring someone to knock it off. If you were giving a course on how not to be ambitious, recounting Wahoo's career would be all the lesson you'd need.

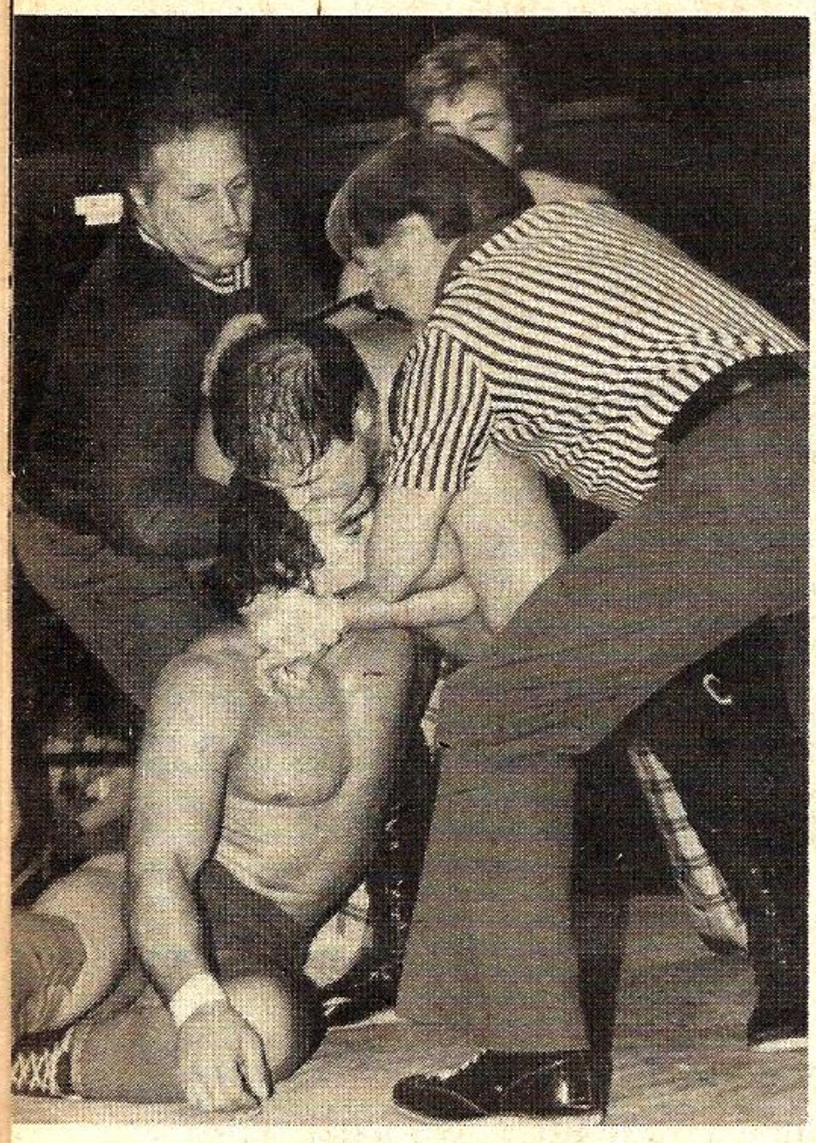
How do you get a man like Wahoo, comfortably settled in his ways, to change? It wouldn't be easy. I'd appeal to his pride, explaining the special glory a man gets from winning a world title. I'd appeal to his vanity, pointing out he doesn't have much time to insure himself a place in the record books. And I'd finish off by appealing to his greed, showing how much money a champion can earn. When a veteran sees that kind of cash available, he has to accept. That's the way to handle Wahoo McDaniel.

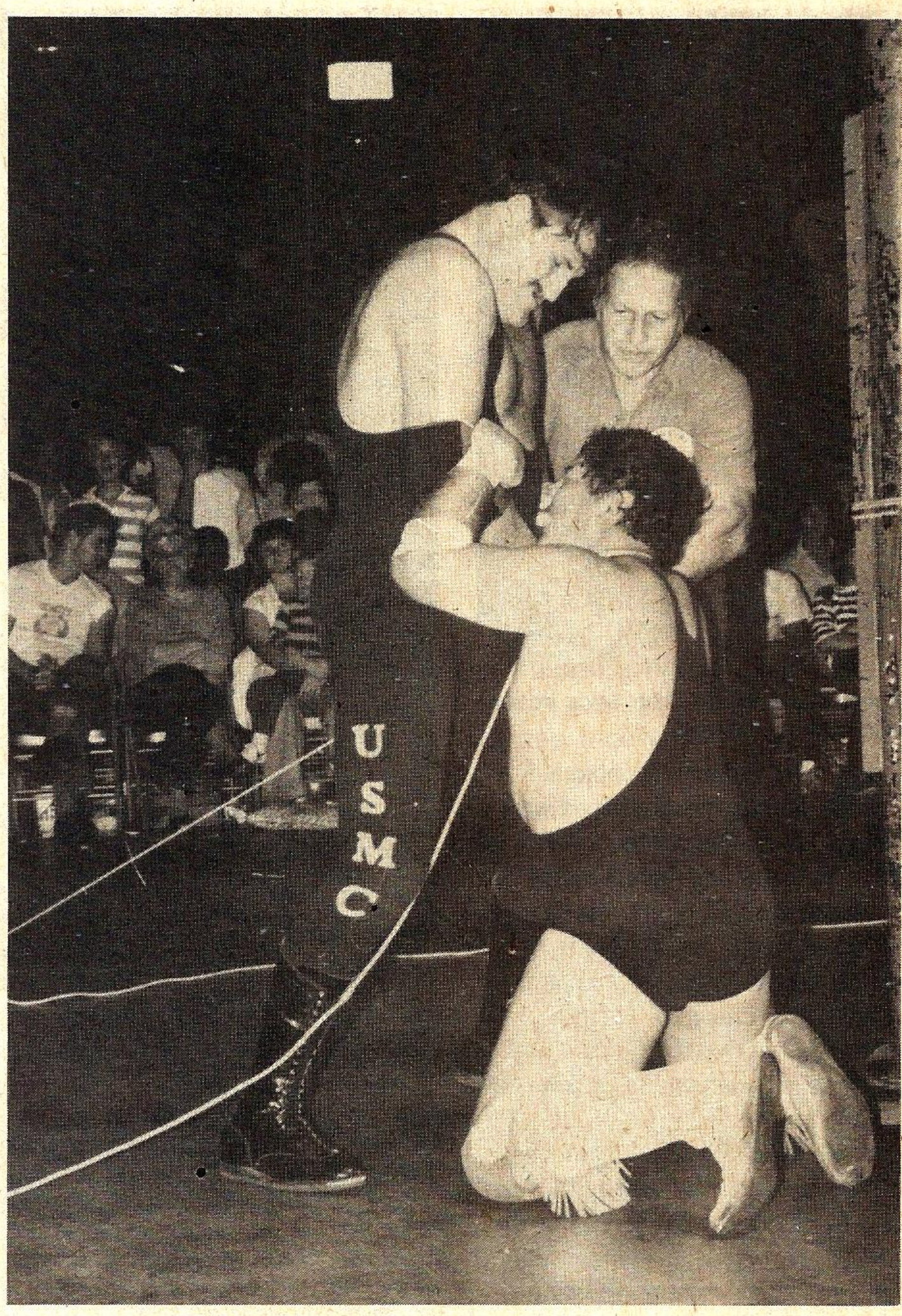
SGT. SLAUGHTER

"It'd be great to send Slaughter after anyone who got me angry."

I WANT TO manage Slaughter for the fun of it. He's a hitman in the best sense of the word. I'd put him in with a killer kodiak bear and give you even money. Managing Slaughter would be the closest thing to having your own Murder Inc.

I wouldn't change a thing about him. With a guy like Slaughter, the important thing is to choose his opponents wisely. He has to feel he's in the middle of a battle. If the guy is too scientific or can't get really angry, Slaughter loses interest. He becomes bored and can make mistakes. If the caliber of opponent isn't tops, Slaughter becomes mediocre. Too many poor opponents could ruin him for months.





Left: Scott McGhee and referees Stu Schwartz and Roughhouse Fargo frantically attempt to pry an injured Rick Steamboat loose from Sgt. Slaughter's cobra clutch. Above: Slaughter sadistically chokes McDaniel by wrapping a guardrail rope around his neck.

Slaughter has to be given foes that push him. If the man is loved by the fans, so much the better. Slaughter lives to make the fans miserable. That's how he gets his jollies. When he's happy, he's at his best. Slaughter enjoys making opponents suffer. If you keep him sharp by choosing the right opponents, there's no telling how far he can go.

Actually, you can pretty much guess how far he can go. I don't think he has the emotional drive to be world champion. If he did win it, I wouldn't bet he'd keep the title very long. Even if I managed him, there'd be no real way to keep him in line. He doesn't have the discipline to remain a champion. Nor does he have the desire to make the sacrifices necessary to be champion. I could probably get him a world title, but I couldn't get him to keep it for more than a month.

Still, it'd be great to send Slaughter after anyone who got me angry.

GREG GAGNE

"He'd need a lot of management, because he's not very bright. Like father, like son."

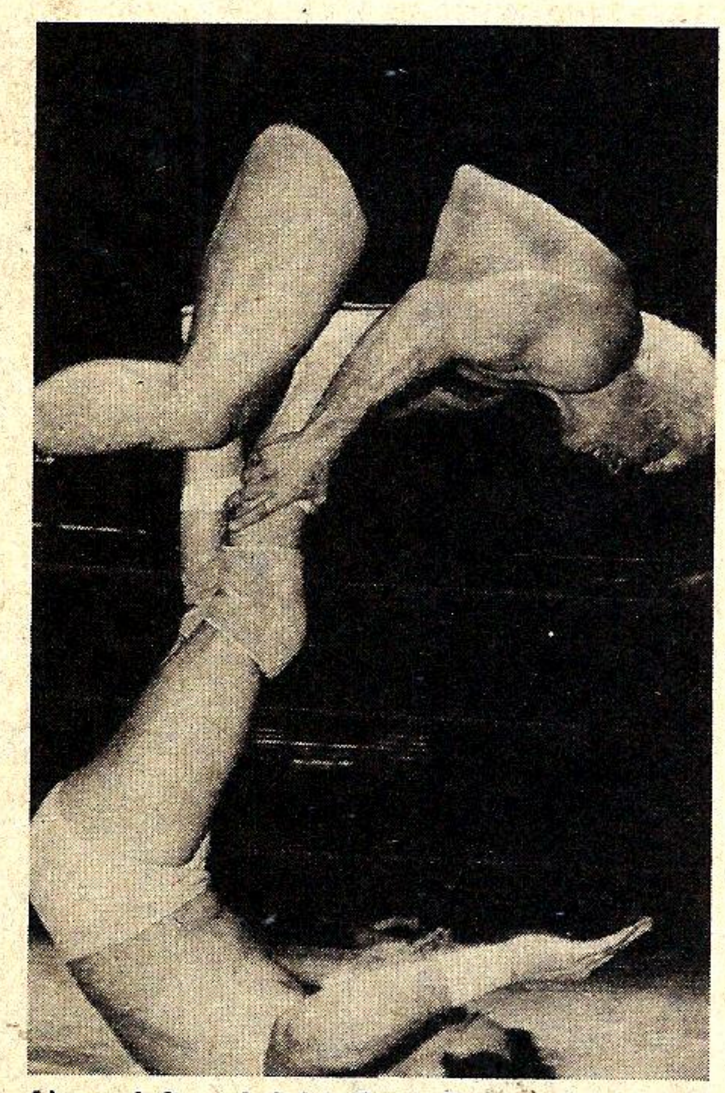
MAKING KID GAGNE champion, that would be the sweetest accomplishment of all. After Verne "His Worship" Gagne has tried like hell to make his son a champion, I'd come along and show the old clown up. What a good time!

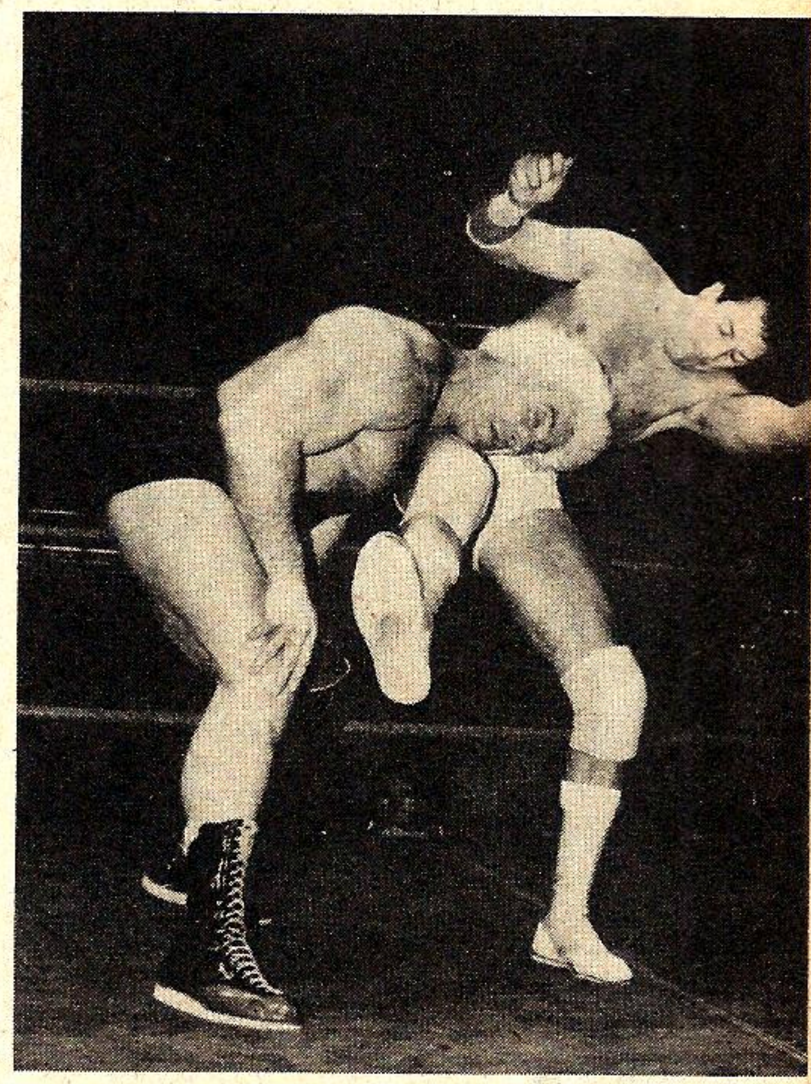
It wouldn't be tough, either. First, I'd make sure the poor kid got rid of all the useless nonsense his father taught him. Greg is the poorest trained wrestler I've ever seen. I could make him three times as successful within a week. Hell, just keeping his father away would double the kid's success.

There is natural ability there, waiting to be tapped. He'd need a lot of management, because he's not very bright. Like father, like son. He'd have to be led by the nose and then only taught the simpler maneuvers. I wouldn't tax him by trying to make him do something complicated. It would be cruel to force him to try something tough.

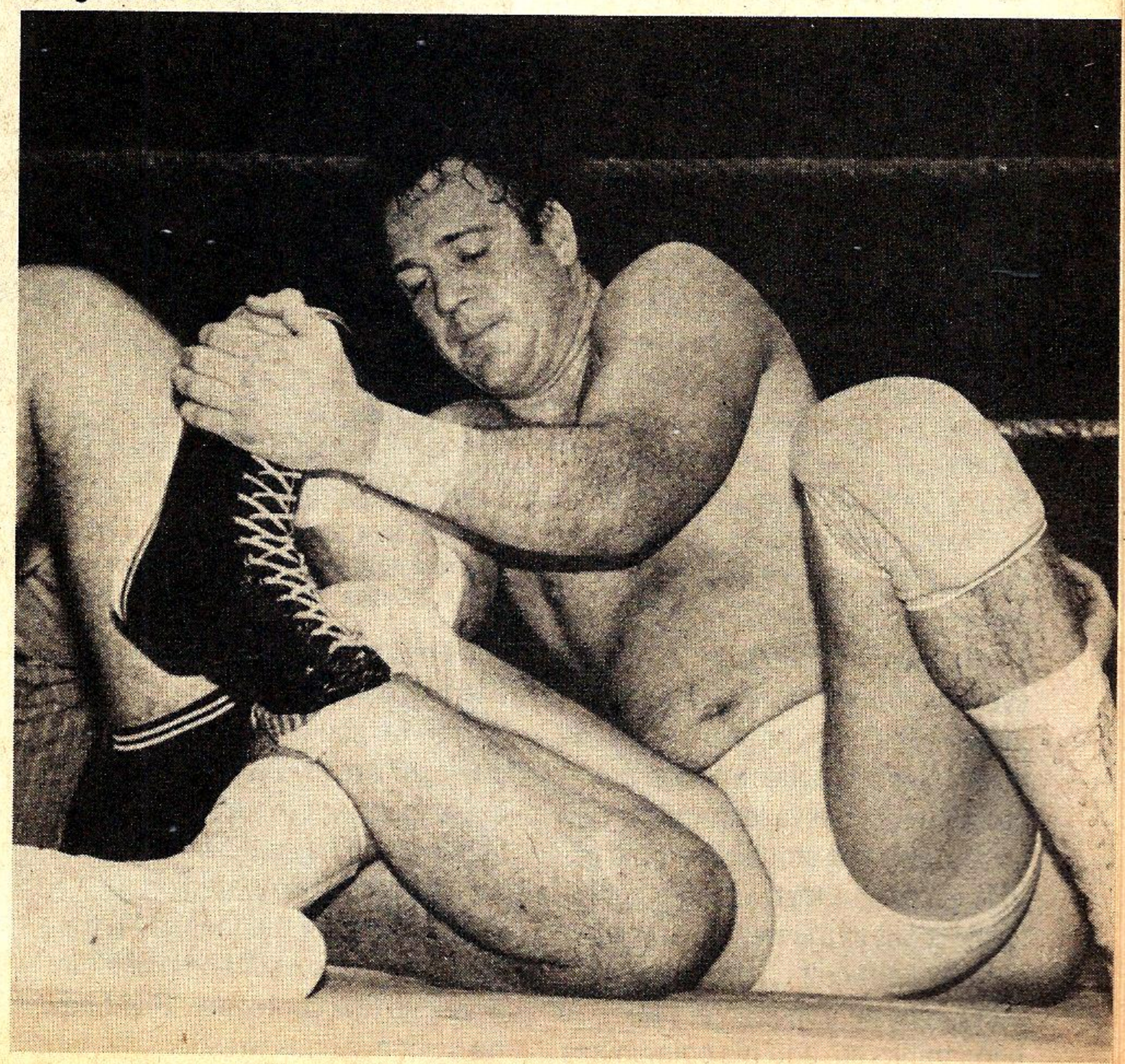
Now, I'm not promising miracles. After all those years being mistaught by Verne, Greg can never be expected to achieve greatness. The most we can hope to achieve is adequacy. The hardest part would be trying to make him hungry. The man doesn't really want to win. Watching Verne wrestle all those years has reduced the poor kid's spirit to a dull spark. If I could make him want to win, that would be the greatest achievement of all.

After getting him in the proper frame of mind (if possible), I'd then teach him to be mean. Now, I don't teach anyone to cheat, but I'd try to teach Greg a little disrespect for the rules. He's too righteous for his own good. If Kid Gagne was a little nastier, he'd be a lot better.



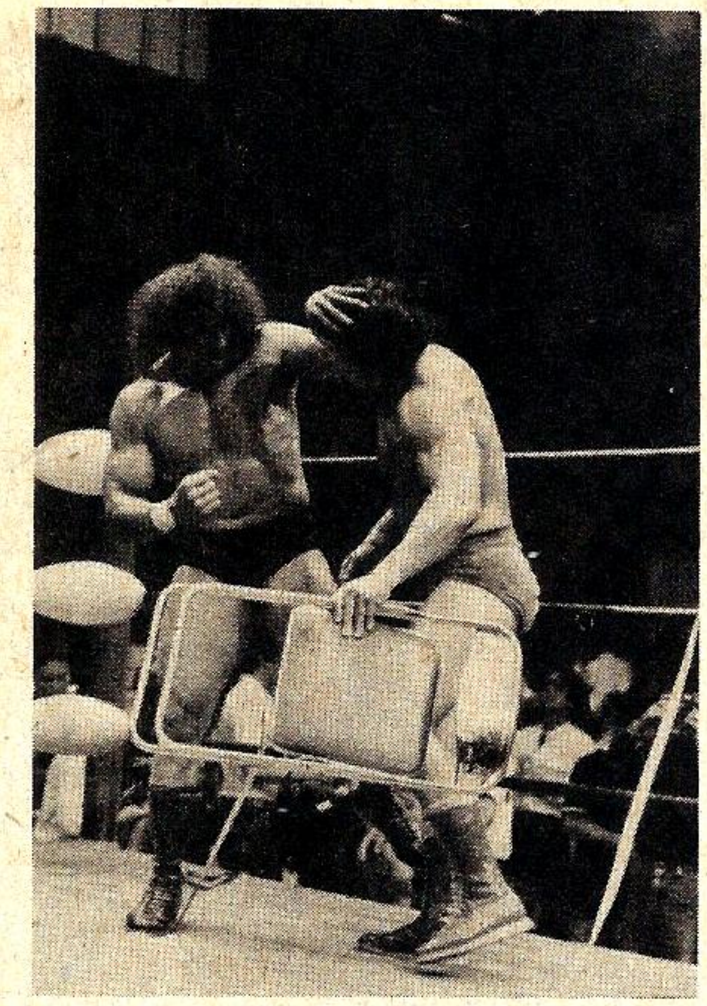


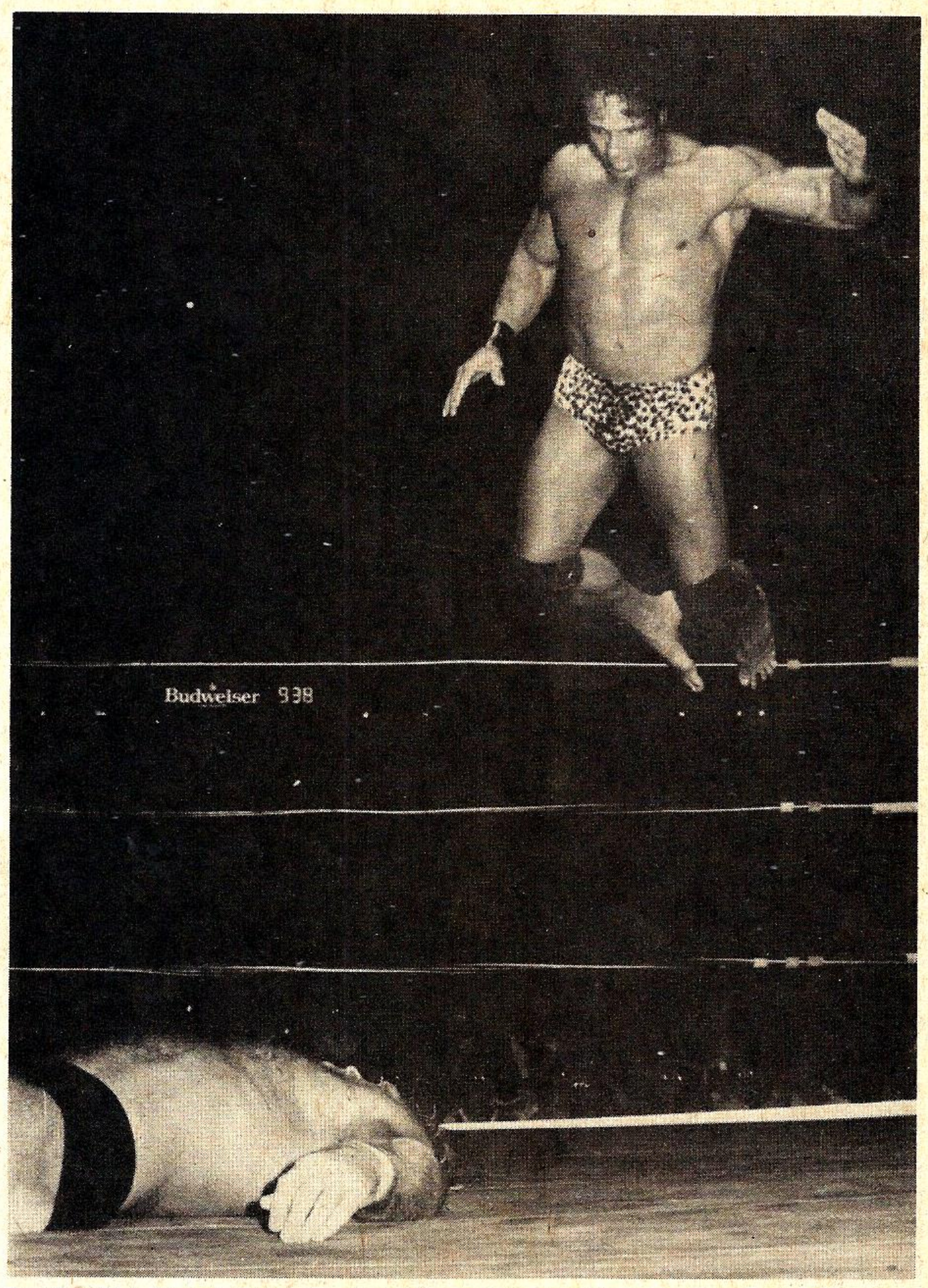
Above left and right: Greg Gagne displays his wrestling versatility against Ken Patera with a monkeyflip and a kneelift. Below: Gagne catches Brad Rheingans in a reverse leglock. Heenan despises Gagne, but admits that with a lot of work, Greg could be made nasty enough to be a winner.



JIMMY SNUKA

"Snuka has to learn not to rely on fan-pleasing stunts when the going gets tough."





Top left: Rick Steamboat brings a chair into the ring but is unable to use it before Snuka throws a right hand. Above: Heenan thinks Snuka would be more effective if he did not rely on "acrobatics" like the Superfly leap.

NOW THERE'S A waste of raw talent if I've ever see it. Lou Albano had him on the right track, but then the fool left Albano. Today, Snuka is a joke among professionals. Fans like to watch him, but experts know his talents are much ado about nothing.

Not that Albano handled the man perfectly. As I said before, I have the greatest respect for Lou, but he's not perfect. He made some bad mistakes. Snuka is not an easy guy to handle, and Lou doesn't have the patience it takes to control him. Snuka's a peacock, and has to be constantly assured and complimented. If you can't do that, you can't manage Snuka.

While complimenting him, however, you have to change him completely. The main problem would be developing a tougher attitude to the sport. Snuka has to learn not to rely on fan-pleasing stunts when the going gets tough. Instead, he's got to battle it out in the trenches. It will be a very difficult change for him, and it may be impossible. I know Albano thinks so, and his opinion has to be respected. Still, I'd like the chance to try.

How far could Snuka go under my tutelage? I really don't know. If I could toughen him up, make a man of him, then he could win any title he wanted. If he insisted on showboating for the fans, then the best I could do would be make him a serious title contender. Right now, he's not a serious wrestler. The fans don't seem to care, and neither does Snuka. He's more popular and earns more money than much better wrestlers, and his ego is the size of Mt. Rushmore. All I could offer him would be the chance to suffer more and improve his craft instead of flaunt his acrobatics. As I said before, I don't think I could change him, but I'd love the chance to try.

ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

"I think his craziness is a great psychological weapon."

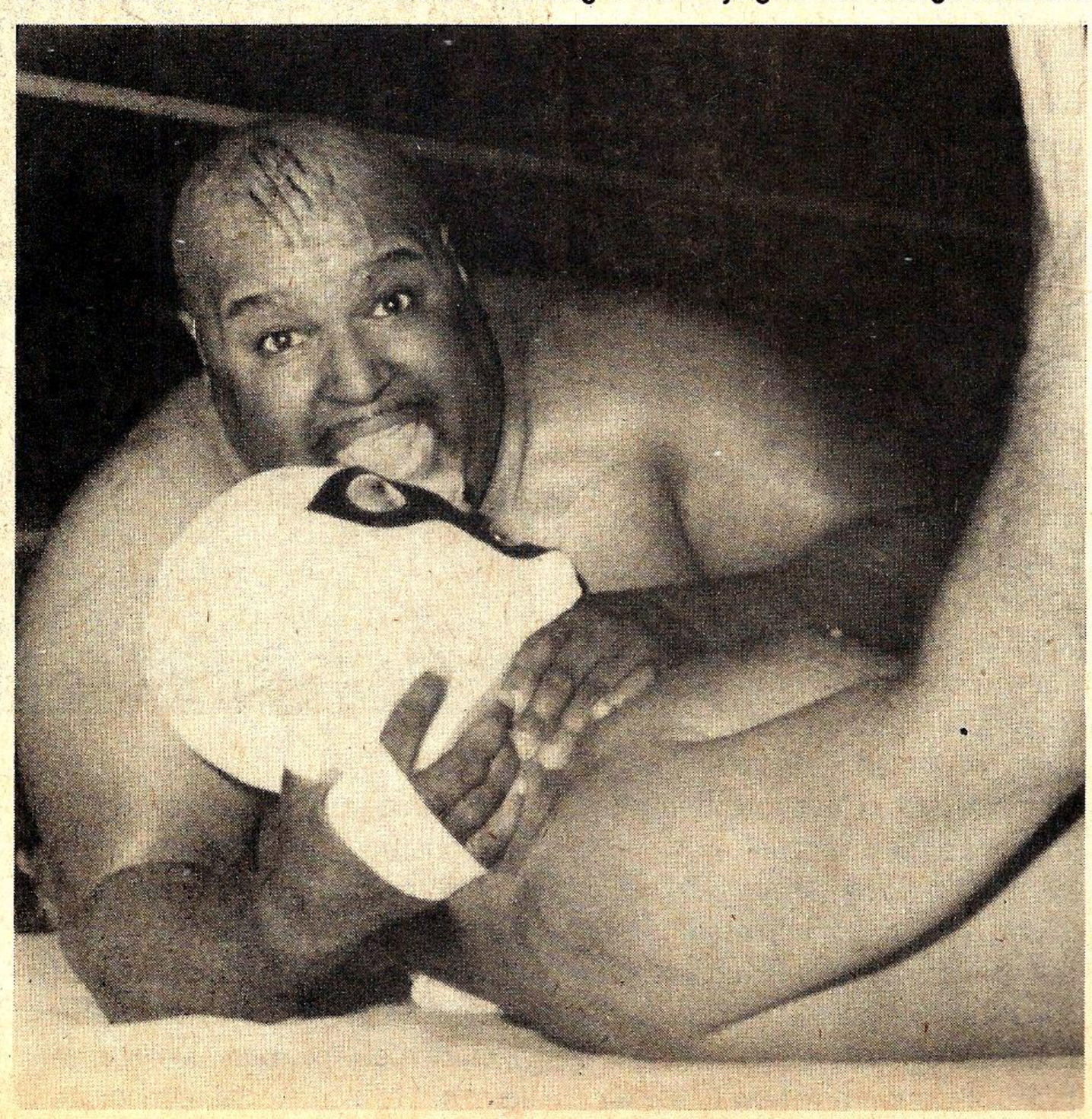
THIS MAN IS the oddest wrestler I've ever seen. He may be a certified lunatic for all I know; I've never been close enough to find out for sure. But every so often, I sense a method in his madness. And I have just enough respect for professional wrestling that I don't think a real nut case could achieve Abdullah's success.

There's no denying he's a powerful man. His huge bulk is a weapon that devastates unwary opponents. Because of his crazy behavior, people tend to underestimate him. I've even been guilty of underestimating him. I've studied films of the man and he has never been stupid. That's right, America, despite what you may think of him, Abdullah the Butcher has never made a stupid mistake. He's been reckless, and he's made some whopper errors in judgment, but he's never made a stupid mistake. That's why I think there's more to the man than meets they eye.

I wouldn't try to make him appear more sane. I think his craziness is a great psychological weapon. I know a dozen guys who lost their matches to Abdullah before they got in the ring. They were psyched out completely by the man's bizarre tactics. I'd guess that Abdullah has had easier matches than any other top wrestler; guys are petrified of him and can't do their best. I wouldn't do anything to change that aspect of the man.

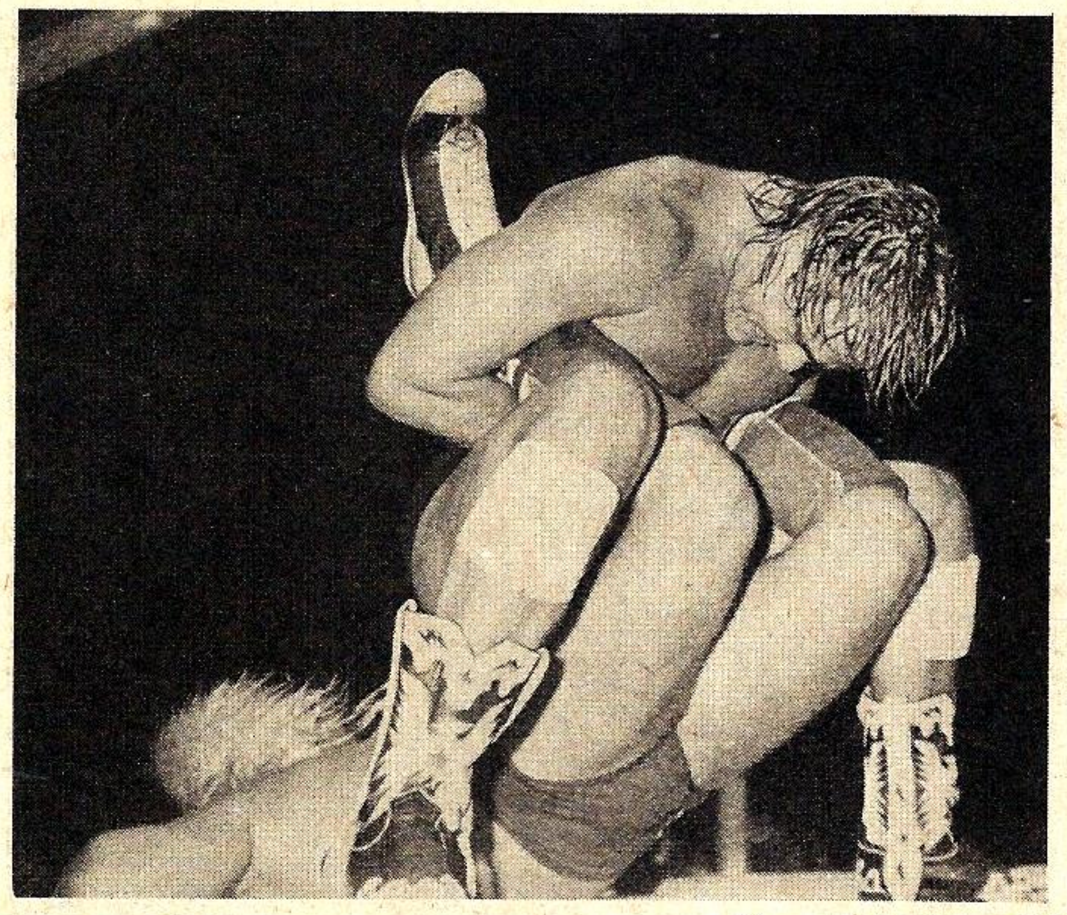
What I would change is his recklessness. He makes too many errors in judgment. He tries to do too much. If he restrained himself more, maybe by about 10 percent, then he'd be 100 percent more effective. By making minor adjustments, I'd change Abdullah into a leading title contender.

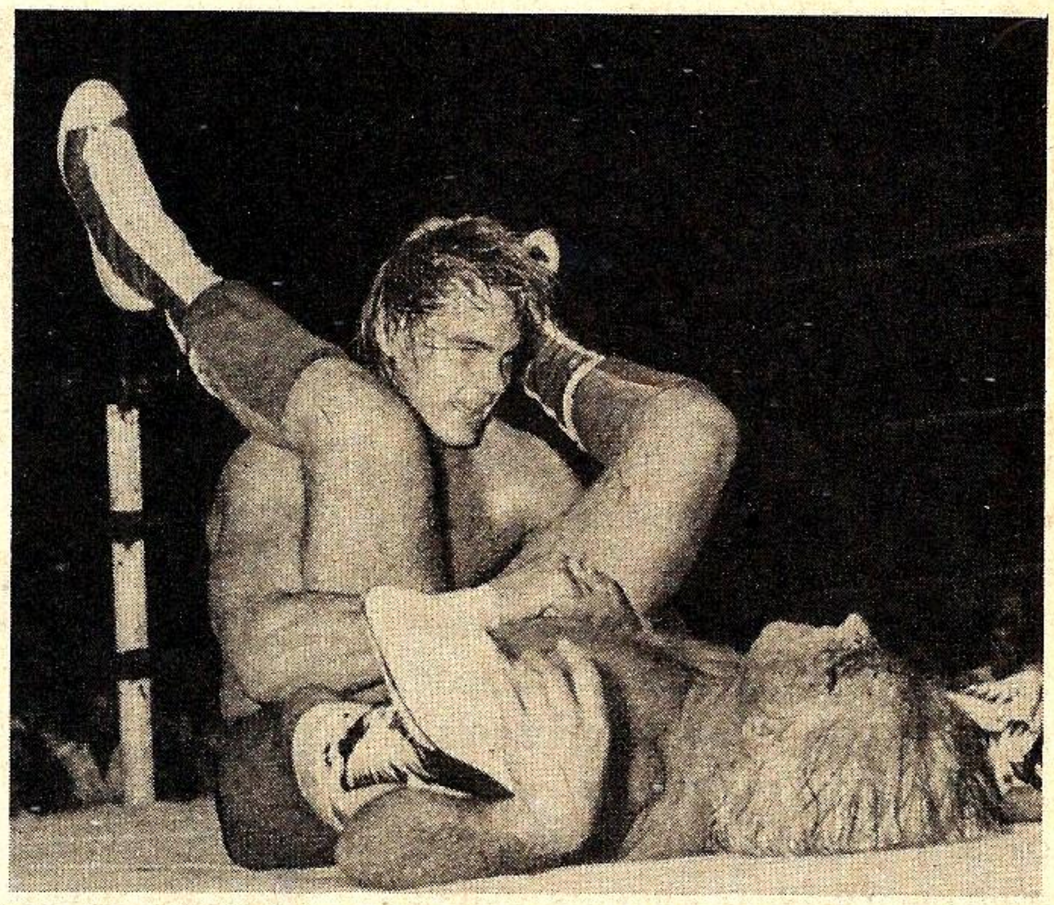
Above: Abdullah pulls back Terry Funk's hair to examine the damage he has inflicted on his head. Below: The Butcher chokes Mr. Wrestling II while trying to bite through his mask.



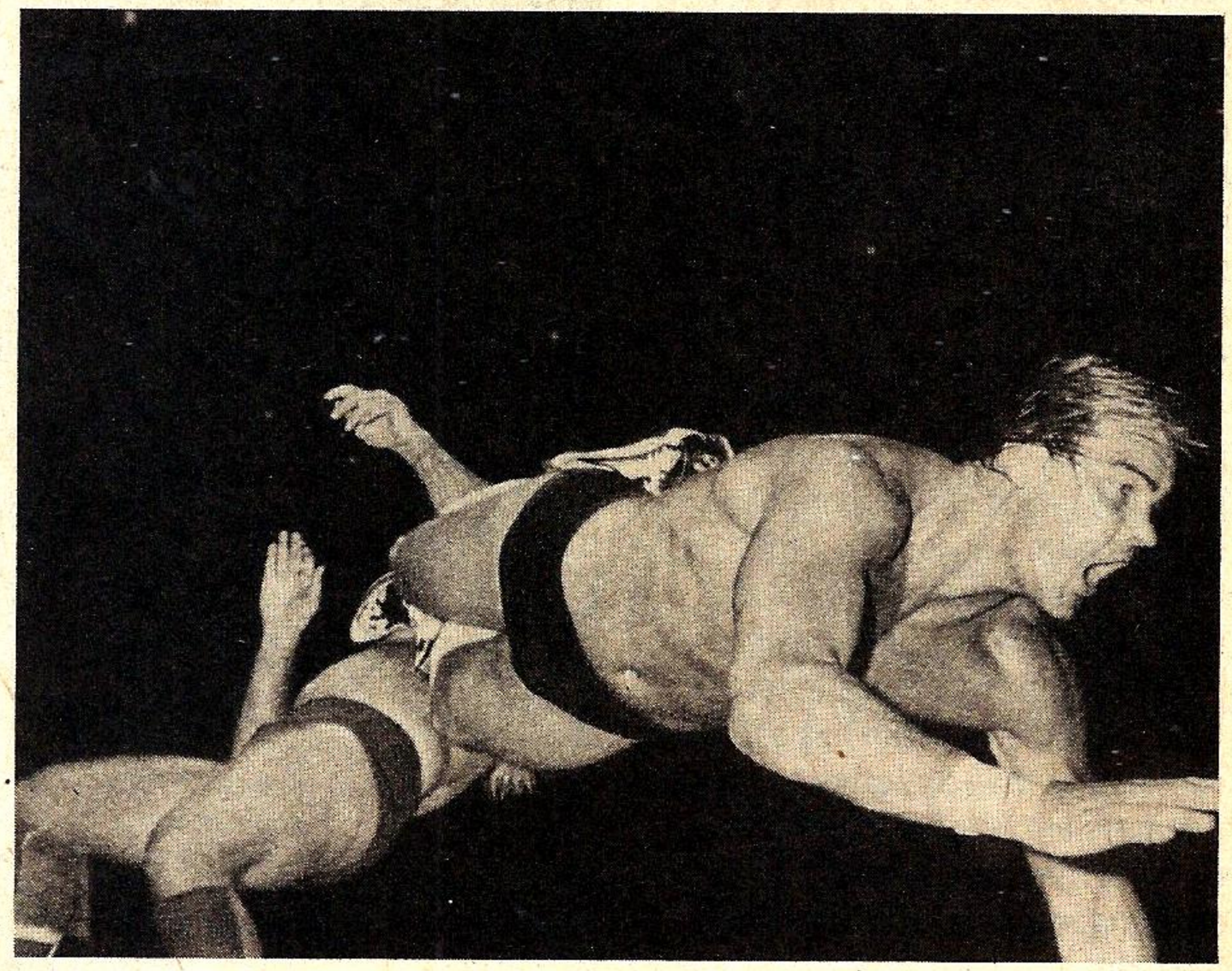
BARRY WINDHAM

"Today, the boy wrestles as if he's in a straitjacket."





Above left: Barry Windham has Ric Flair helpless with the Boston crab. Above right: A sunset flip finds Barry nearly pinning Flair, who thwarted the attempt a split second later with a double legsmash to Windham's head. Below: A spectacular Windham dropkick catches Flair flush in the chest.



SOMEDAY THIS KID will learn what it means to be the son of Blackjack Mulligan. I'd sure like to be his manager when he does. I'd consider it an honor to be the one who teaches him.

When I managed Mulligan, I met Barry as a young lad. Just watching him walk, you could tell he was an athlete. He also had a love of wrestling and the life wrestlers lead. I knew he was going to be a pro when he grew up. And I knew he was going to be good.

So far, I'm half right. He did turn pro. At best, however, he's mediocre. Not that there's anything wrong with Barry that a little imagination couldn't cure. His strategies are abysmal. Any professional can tell you exactly what he's going to do three minutes before he does it. Barry is so intent on doing things right, carving an "honorable" name for himself, that he's forgotten what it means to be a wrestler.

What I'd do for Barry would be loosen him up. Let him enjoy himself, get rowdy. He's Blackjack's son and he should act like it. Today, the boy wrestles as if he's in a straitjacket. I'd show him how to use all his gifts.

Within a year, I could make him a top contender, a serious threat to topple any champion. Within two years, he'd own a world title. There's no doubt in my mind about that. If he doesn't get himself a top manager, namely me, Barry's career will level out to a comfortable mediocrity. If that's what he wants, then he shouldn't bother to call me. But if he wants to be champion, perhaps the most ferared grappler in the world, then he should come crawling to me. It would be the best thing that ever happened to him.

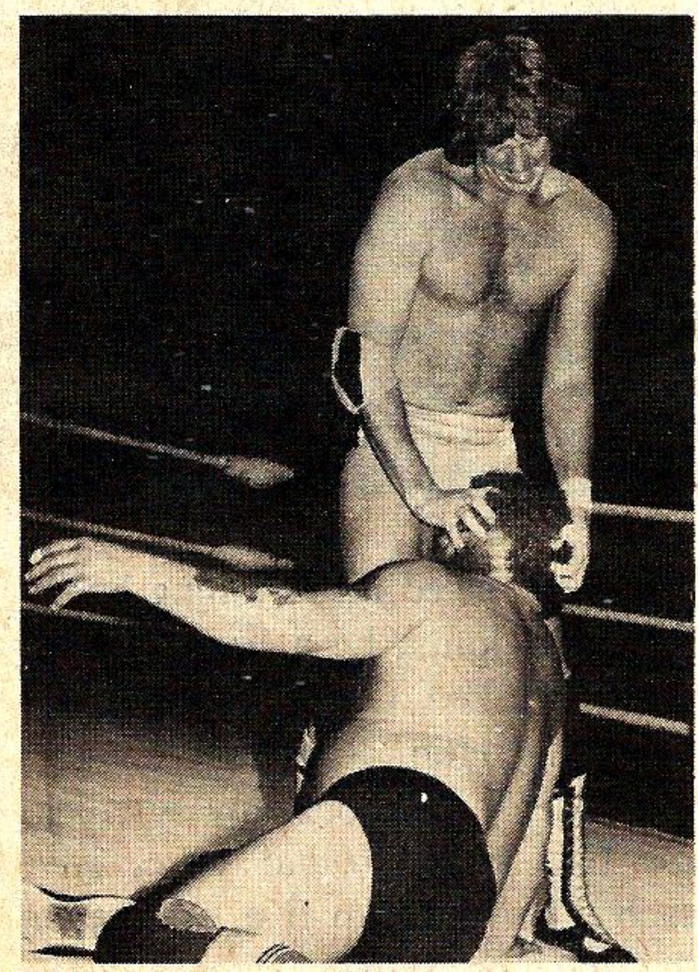
I made his father a champion. I can do the same for the son.

DAVID VON ERICH

"He's got the potential to be smart. He just has to be shown the way."

HERE'S ANOTHER KID who'd old man was a great wrestler. Also, he's a kid who isn't taking advantage of his talents.

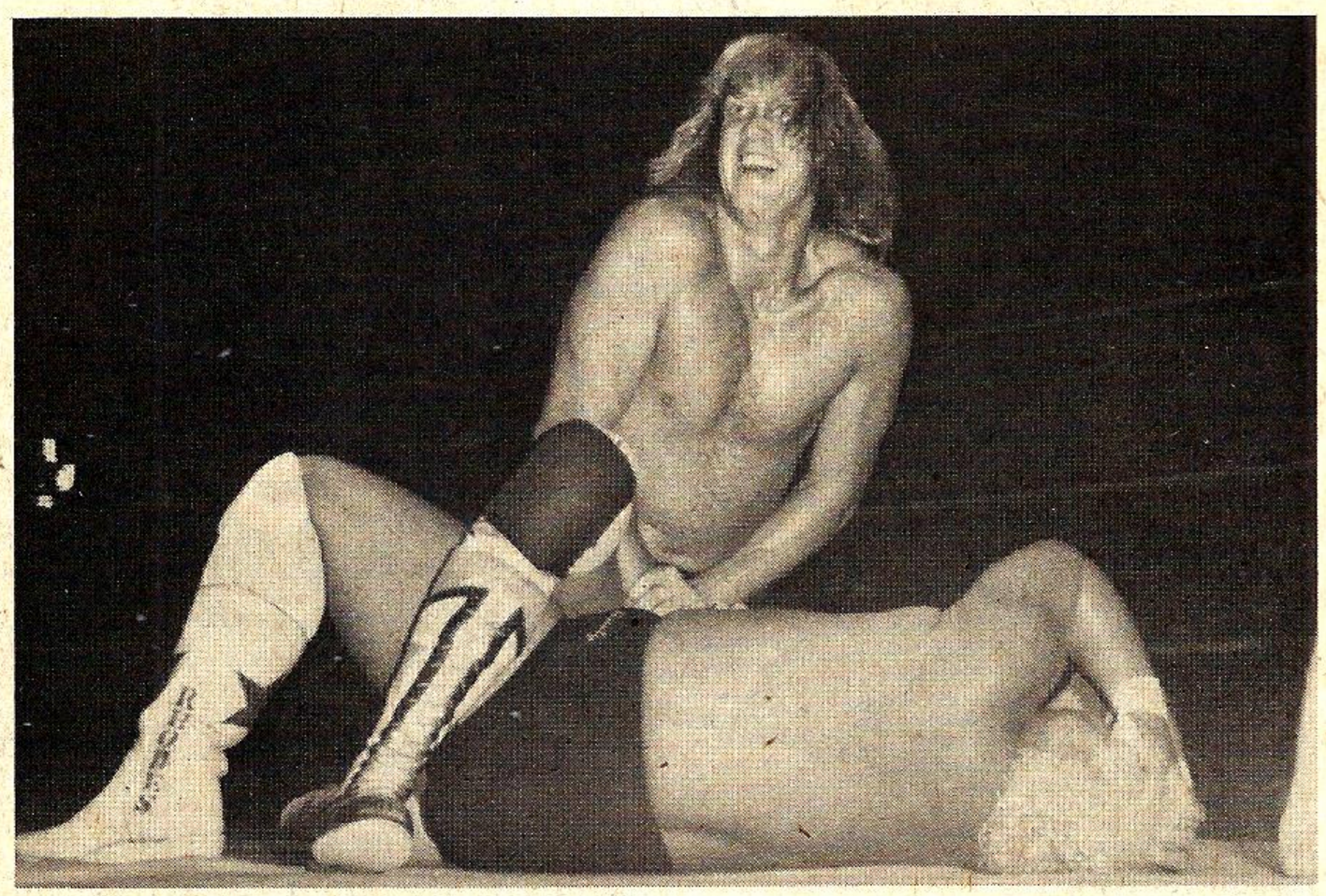
First off, I'd get him away from his brothers. Nobody—and I mean *nobody*—ever helped himself by sticking around his family. Look at all the brothers in the sport. Now look at when each man was at his peak. Was his brother around? No way. You can tell when a guy starts to hit the skids by how often he teams with his brother. It's a sure sign of impending doom.



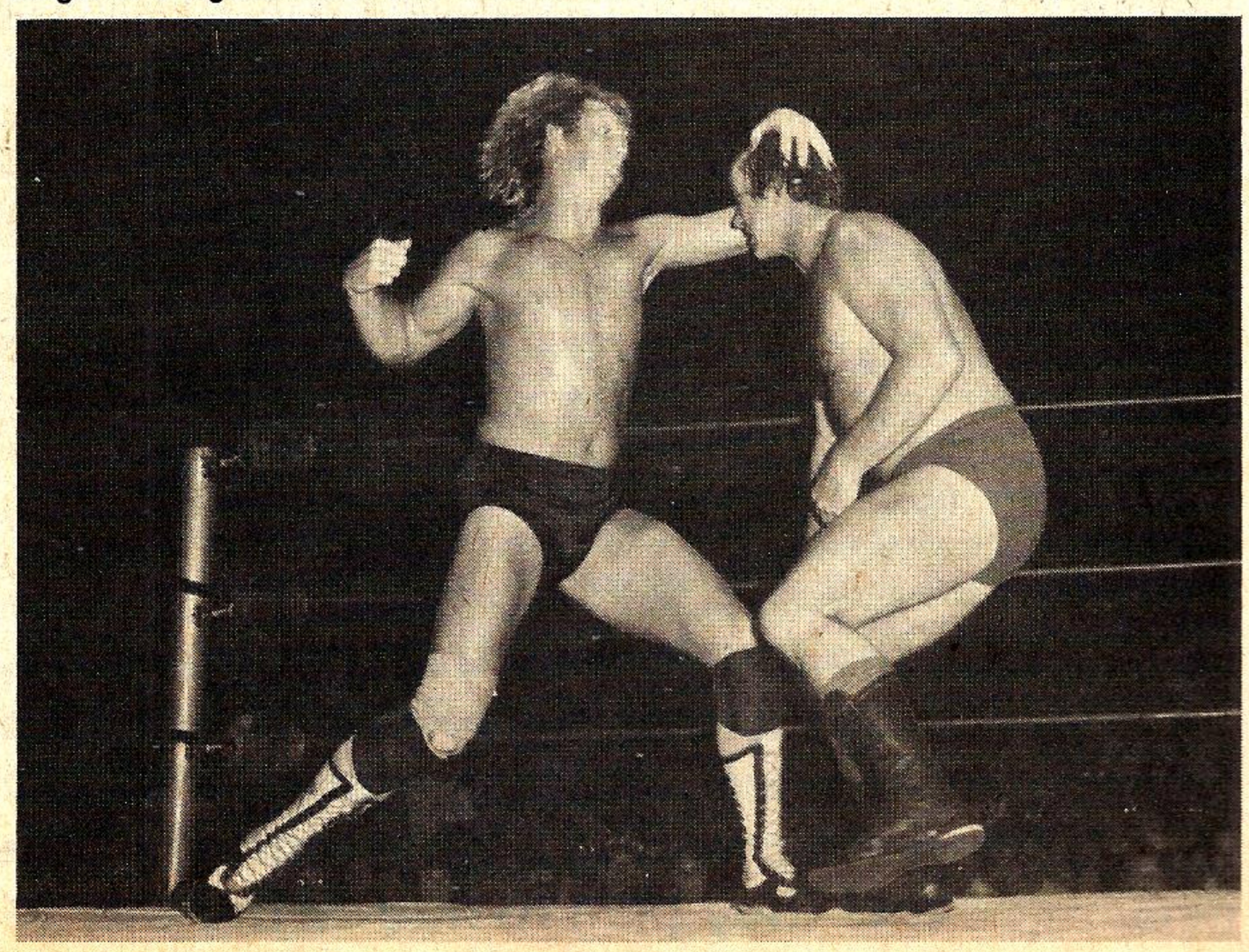
David doesn't know that yet, but he'll have to learn. His brothers, Kerry and Kevin, aren't bad kids, but they don't help David by sticking around him. A wrestler has to think of number one and only number one. If you worry about your brother, that saps your strength. If you go up against a guy without family troubles, he's going to win 10 out of 10 times. No, I refuse to let brothers wrestle together when they're with me. David would have to obey that rule.

Next, I'd smooth off the rough edges. The kid has a lot of talent, but nobody has refined it. He still makes clumsy mistakes, the kind of mistakes that cost you championships. He has to wrestle *smarter*. That's where I come in. I teach men to be smart. Having seen David, I don't think my job would be too tough. He's got the potential to be smart. He just has to be shown the way.

As for a championship, that would be about three or four years in the future. I'd want to bring David along slowly. He's the kind of wrestler who needs a slower pace for his career. He'll be champion a long time once he wins it if he has someone smart in his corner. You don't need to take chances with him. He's a secure, longterm investment. □



Left: David Von Erich catches NWA World champion Harley Race in the claw. Above: David's claw, applied to Dusty Rhodes' stomach, has the American Dream thinking he's caught in a nightmare. Below: David delivers a smash to the head of Dory Funk Jr.



Rick Morton & Robert Gibson: THE POWER AND FURY OF THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

By Joseph Bua

Start me up. If you start me up I'll never stop.

JOHNNY MATHIS JUST doesn't make the grade. Neither does Barry Manilow, nor John Denver.

As I sat with Rick Morton and Robert Gibson in their dressing room in Louisville, Kentucky, I wondered what tonight's program would be, professional wrestling or a rock concert.

"This is my most important piece of of equipment," Morton said. He didn't mean his trunks or his boots. He was referring to, as they say on the streets, his "box." A box is a portable stereo cassette player, but Morton's seemed too big to be called portable. There were plenty of lights and dials, and two huge speakers.

"The bigger it is, the better the sound," Gibson said. "Sound is all important. You can't get into a song unless you can really hear it. Look at the speakers on this thing. This system blows most people's home stereos away."

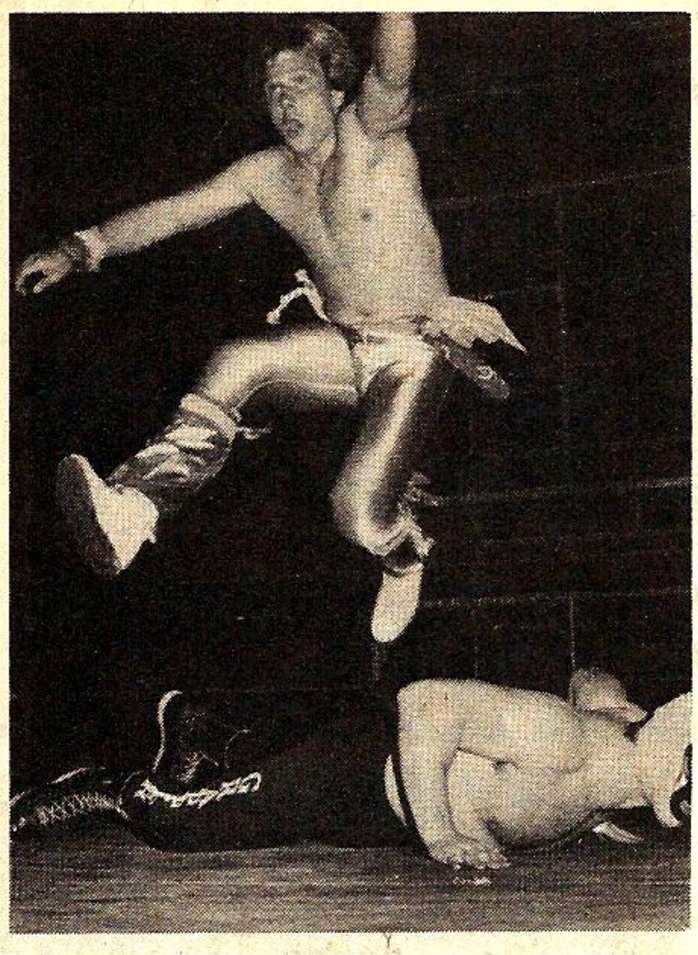
There's gonna be a heartache tonight, a heartache tonight I know.

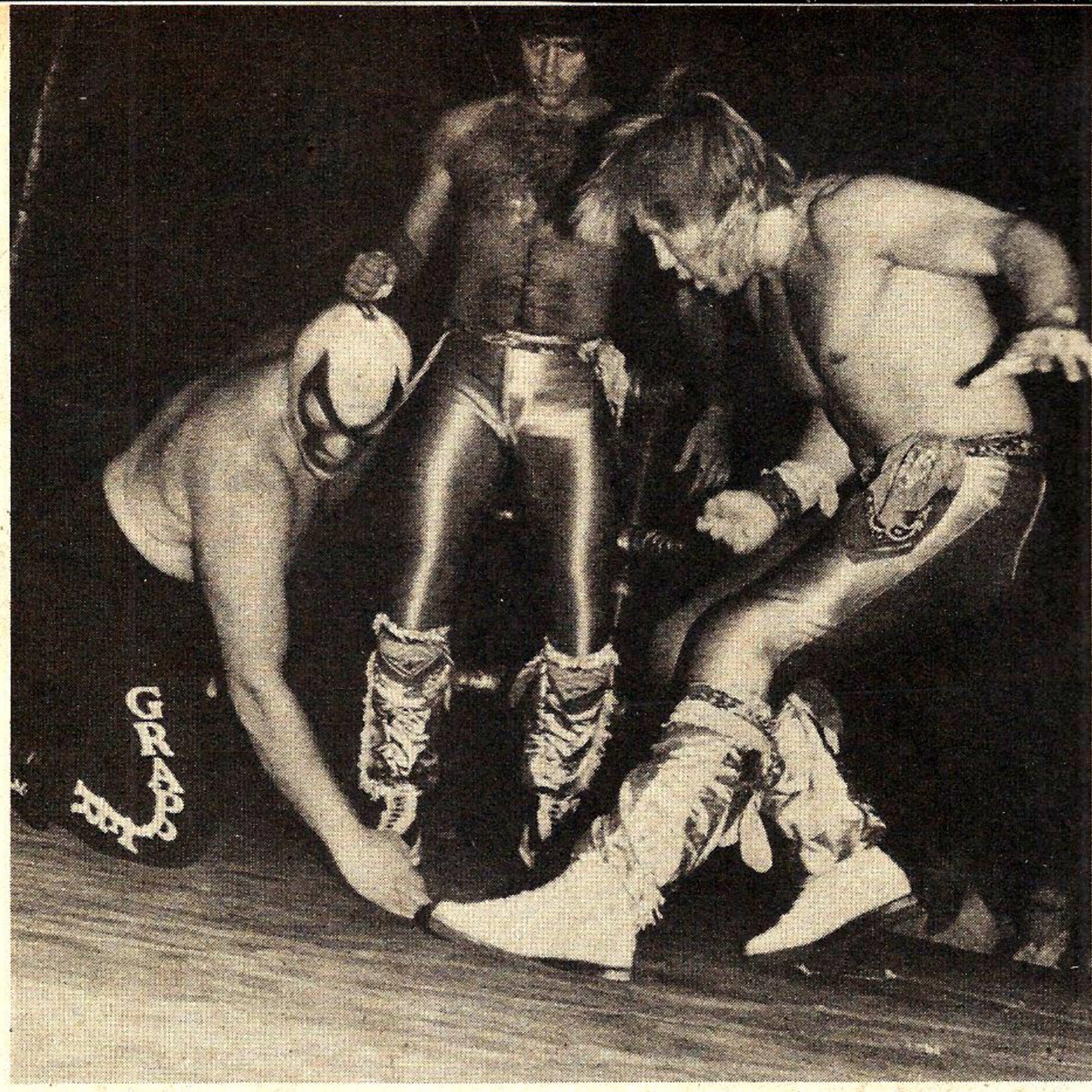
Gibson sang along with the Eagles as he laced his wrestling boots. "There's gonna be a heartache for those Masked Grapplers tonight," he said. "Huh, Ricky, huh?"

Suddenly, without any warning, the two spun around once, gave each other the high five, and began to sing, or rather, scream along with the Eagles.

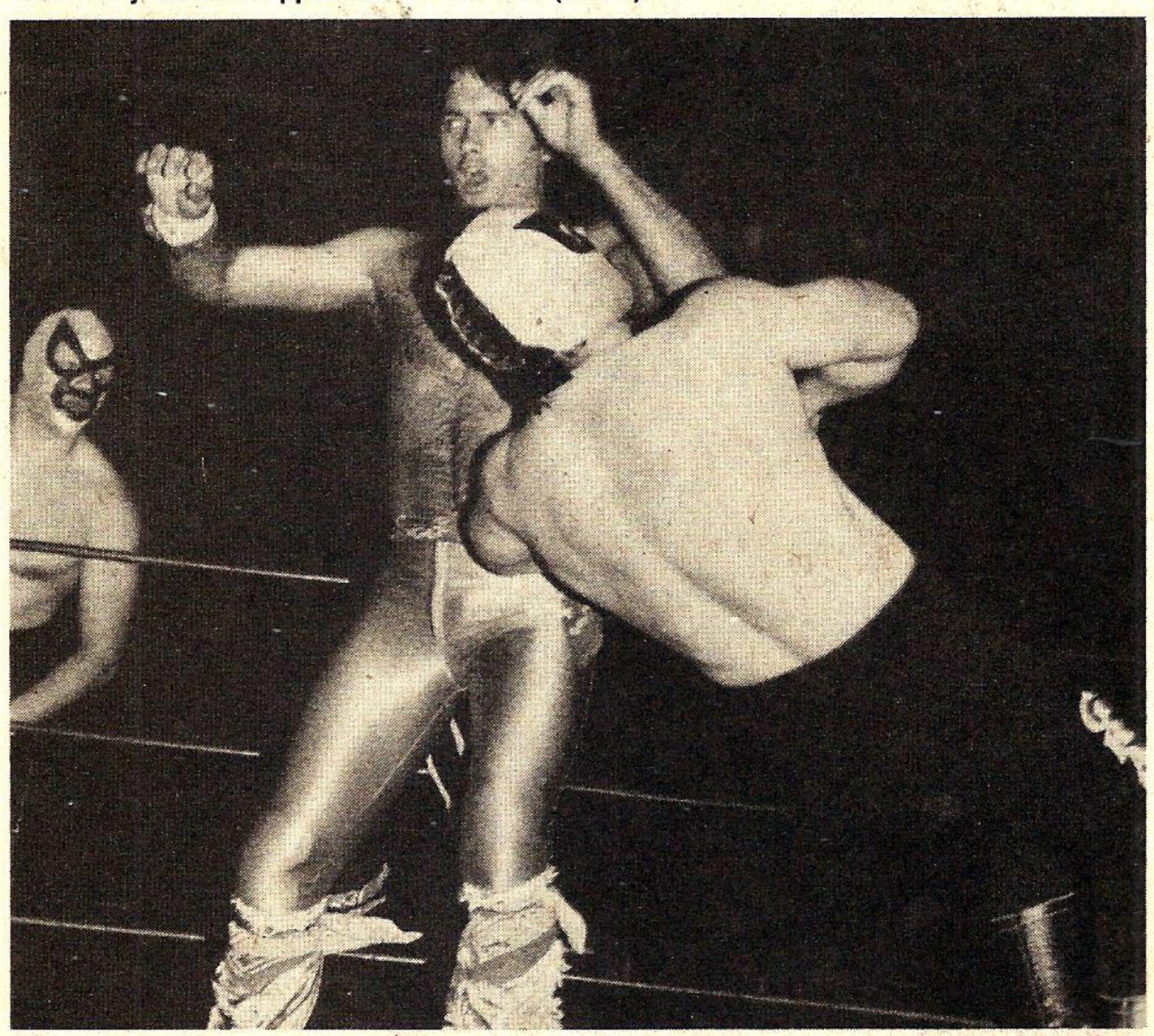
Morton and Gibson call themselves "The Rock 'n' Roll Express" because, Morton explained, rock music has a great deal to do with the team's mental attitude. "You have to get up for the match," he said. "You warm up physically be-

Like the music they train by, travel by, and live by, the wrestling style of "The Rock 'n' Roll Express" is powerful, hard-driving, and aggressive. Rick Morton and Robert Gibson are creating a whirlwind of excitement down south that they plan to ride all the way to a world title





Masked Grappler #1 drops to the canvas to get out of the path of a charging Rick Morton (top left). Morton demonstrates his dancing ability on Grappler's fingers (above). Gibson effortlessly takes Grappler #2 off his feet (below).



fore you go into the ring, so why not mentally? We try to work ourselves into a certain . . . a certain state of consciousness. You can't go into the ring cold, mentally or physically."

Another thing that helps the team is the fans. "We like to get them worked up, like Mick Jagger, like Springsteen, like Peter Wolf from the J. Geils Band," Morton said. "If you've got the fans, you've got a big advantage. Imagine Mick Jagger performing in front of a stonefaced crowd. I don't think he'd be half as good as he is in front of about 50,000 fans who are really into the Stones."

The fans are certainly into the Rock 'n' Roll Express. And for good reason. The team is sizzling hot. They are currently campaigning for the AWA Southern tag team championship held by "The Fabulous Ones," Steve Keirn and Stan Lane in parts of Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, and Alabama.

Morton and Gibson have tremendous respect for the champions. "They are truth in advertising, if you know what I mean," Morton said. "They *are* fabulous. What I like about them is, not to brag or anything, but they're like us. They're always moving. They tag in and out a lot. But, most of all, they've got that feeling going for them. They've got that enthusiasm, that drive."

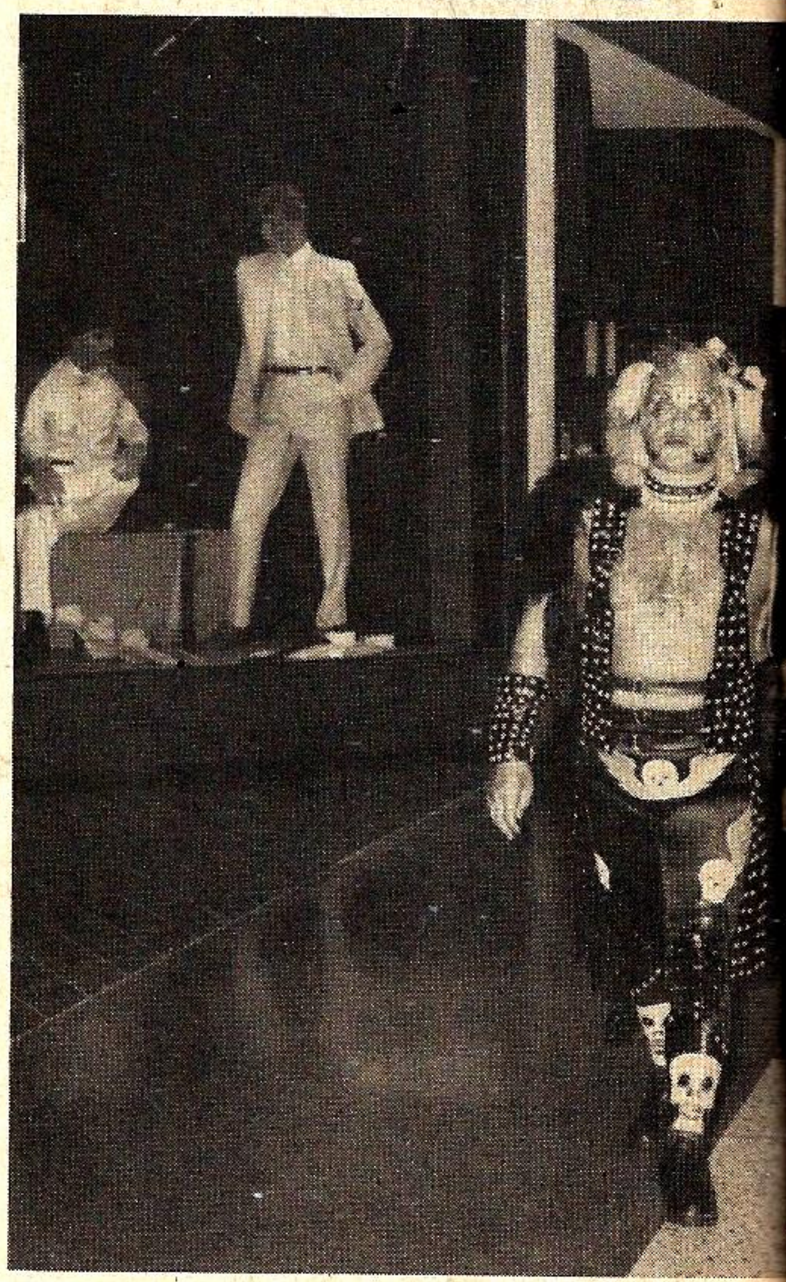
"I don't know if they get pumped up the same way we do," Gibson said, turning the volume on the stereo higher, "but whatever they do, it works. And I've always said that if something works, stay with it."

The two younger wrestlers, however, are convinced that they would have a good chance of defeating

(Continued on page 54)

Out-of-the-Ring Exclusive: AN EXOTIC DAY WITH ADRIAN STREET

Street ran into a little trouble at the mall's beauty salon where Adrian would only allow Miss Linda to work on him. Adrian carefully selects the appropriate nail polish.



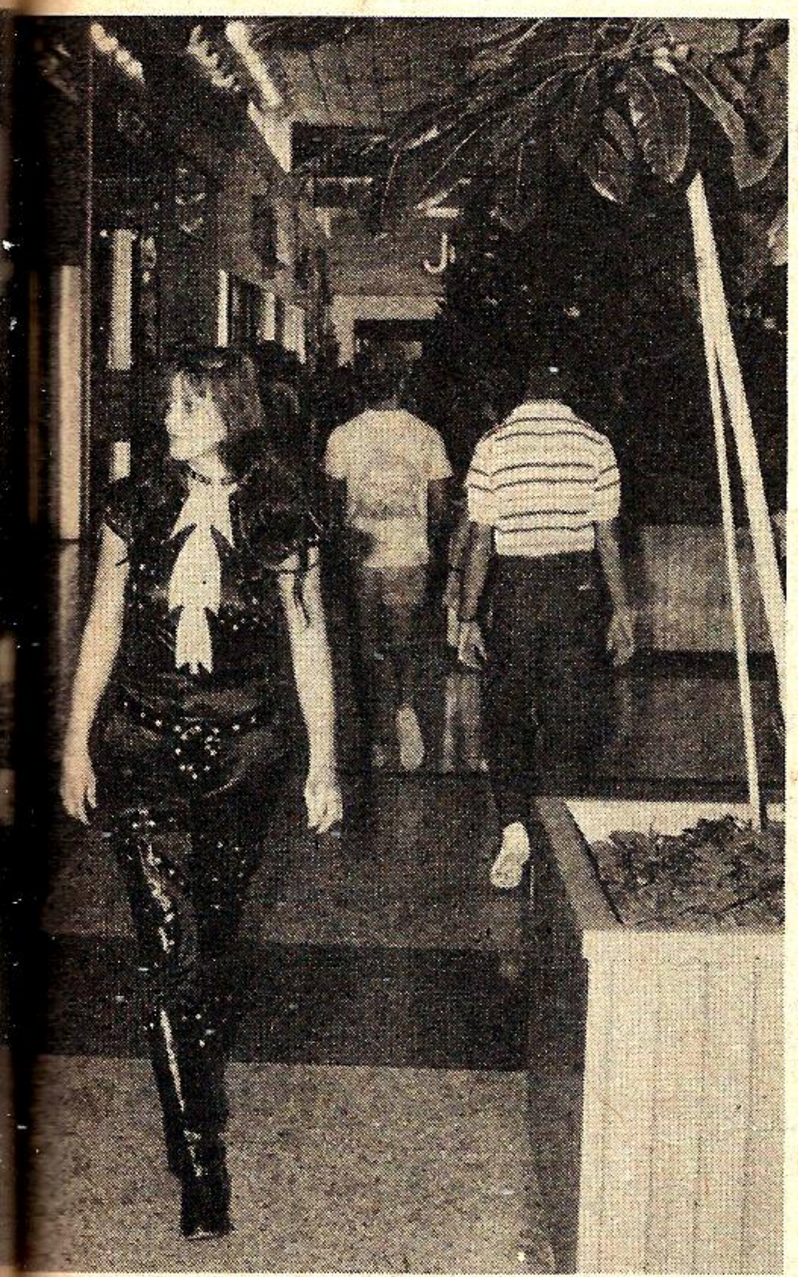
By Adrian Street

IN MY CONTINUING study of Americans, I decided to explore what seems to be the closest thing that you people have to culture . . . the shopping mall. Miss Linda and I helicoptered to Tampa the day after another one of my victories at the Eddie Graham Sports Complex in Orlando. We might have taken the limousine, but driving can be such a bore here in Florida. There's nothing to see but the same stucco ranch houses and palm trees. How dull.

Terrence met us at the heliport

British star Adrian Street has taken a keen interest in Americans and their way of life. Recently, he and his valet, Miss Linda, spent their day off at Tampa's West Shore Mall, exploring the stores and talking with the people. In this exclusive *Wrestling Superstars* feature, "The Exotic One" shares his opinions on this country and its inhabitants

Photos by Bill Otten



They took a helicopter (top left) and a limousine (top right) to do it, but Adrian Street and Miss Linda felt it well worth it for the chance spend a day in an American mall. Oddly, nobody seems to take notice of these two rather unique window-shoppers (above).

with the car and drove us home so I could change. As always, I wanted to choose something unique from my wardrobe. As you know, I design all my own clothes, and everything is one-of-a-kind, but I wanted to wear something today that was appropriate for the occasion, yet comfortable in the hot sun.

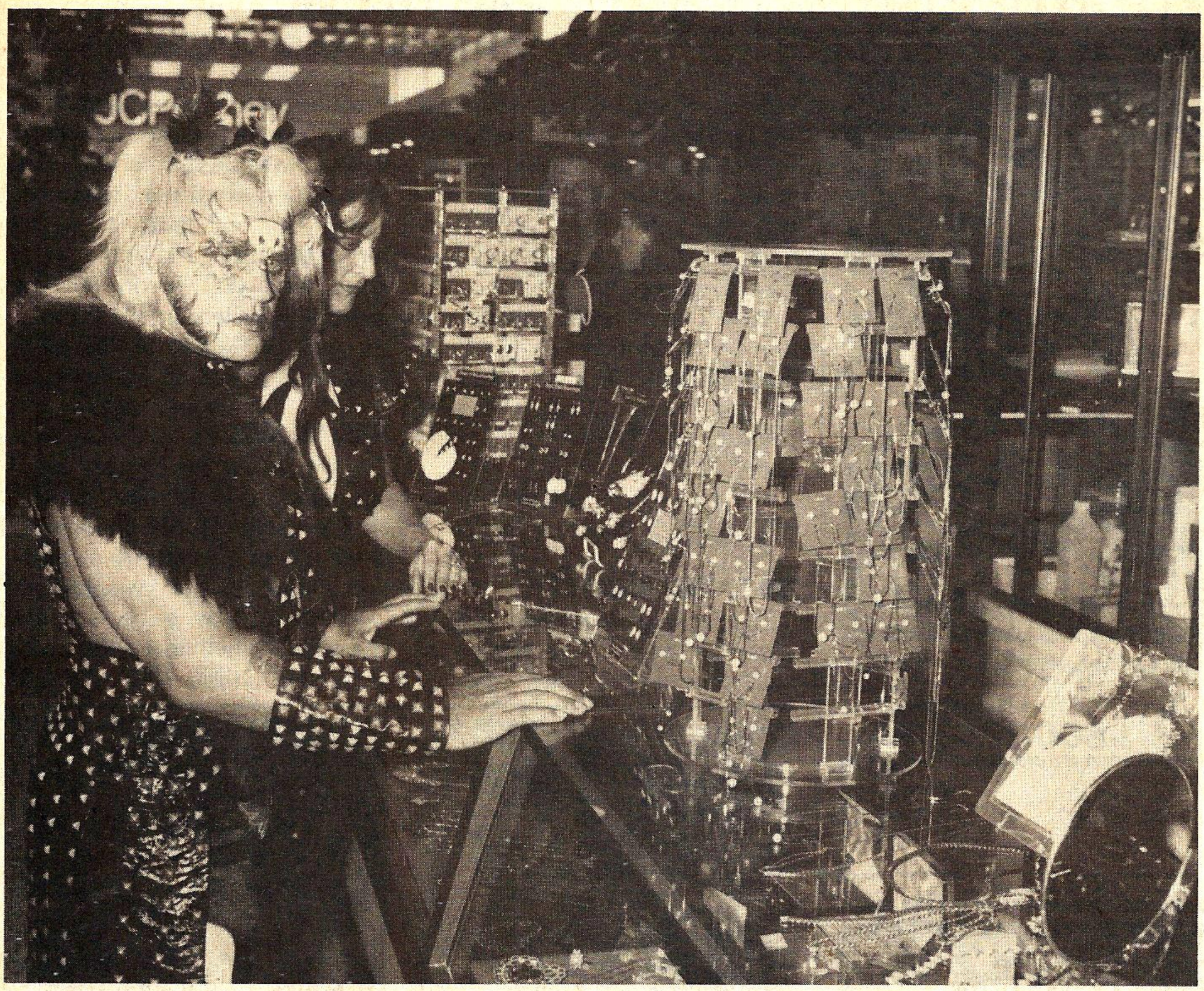
Our first stop, the gym. Even on my day off, I must make sure

Street and his valet spent almost an hour in one of the mall's toy stores. The Exotic Adrian appears to have found an exotic new friend. Miss Linda encourages Street to buy the doll.

that my body stays in its beautiful shape. I consider it a perfectly toned temple. I was quite surprised to find the health spa at the mall. What a convenience! I sent Miss Linda out with my shoes and my dry cleaning while I pumped iron. That is what you people call it, isn't it?

I waited outside the spa for Miss Linda to return. I had to scold her quite harshly when she returned late, and I was surprised to find other people in the mall listening in on our conversation. How rude! I waved my hand and said, "Don't you people have

Adrian and Miss Linda sift through a rack of handbags (left). No, Street is not buying a gift for his valet. Miss Linda buys a flower for herself and her employer (below).



Street's eyes are not focused on a piece of fine jewelry; he has caught a glimpse of The Exotic One in the mirror (above). Linda grooms Adrian at the mall's beauty salon (right).

something better to do than involve yourselves in my life?" Sadly, they probably don't.

We stopped in at a salon and had ever such a difficult time dealing with the beauty operators. They weren't going to let Miss Linda groom me. I complained up a storm until they relented to our wishes.

Later, Lind and I wandered around, window-shopping. I suggested to her that she get a part-time job on the side. If she saved her money, she might be able to afford some of the plebeian fash-

(Continued on page 52)

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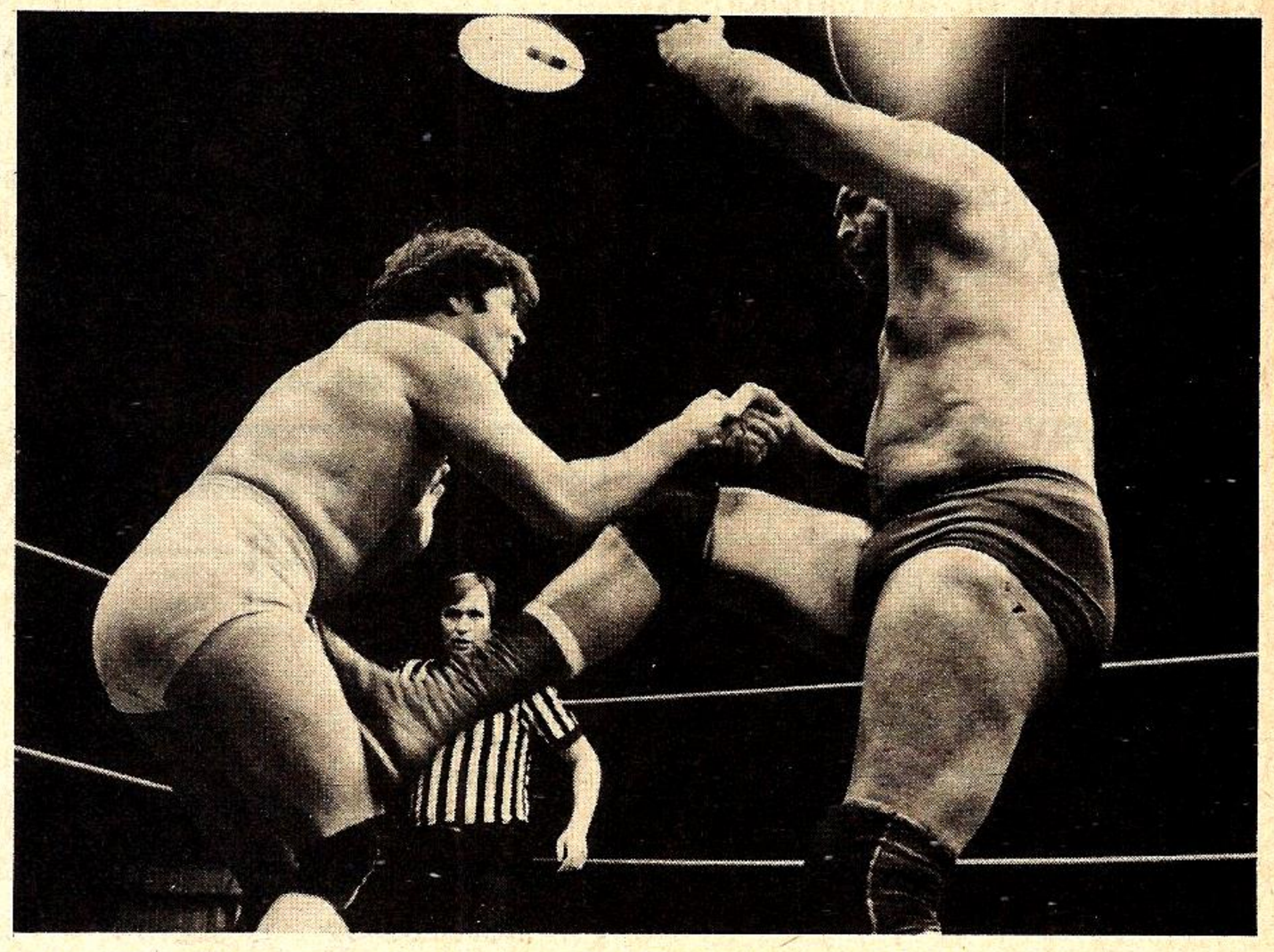
Ernie Ladd

(Continued from Page 20)



In his own words, Ernie Ladd has grown bored with being the King of Wrestling. He wants to explore new dimensions, he says, even if it takes him out of our solar system!

to bless the day. A mere wave of my crown guarantees joy for all my subjects. At 5:30, several voluntary slaves enter my quarters to draw my bath. Hot, to steam away the evening sleep. I breakfast on country sausages and fresh eggs. Of course, I must have freshly squeezed orange juice, no pits. A subject was once banished for permitting pits to slip into my orange juice.

Throughout the morning, I listen to personal requests. Recently Tommy Rich and Tony Atlas begged for an audience. That's typical of the frenzied work schedule I must put in every day. Rich came in, his eyes all bloodshot. I asked him, "How can I help you, my son." Sobbing, Rich pleaded for me to manage his career. He offered 60 percent of his earnings for the next five years. That enraged me and I threw him out. Following that blond wimp was Tony Atlas. Again, a meager creature begging for my protection.

Needless to say, I was quite aggravated by this time. Still, I heard all the whining requests for protection. A young man asking my blessing for his marriage. I assented and performed the ceremony at ringside prior to one of my vaunted victories. Another person pleaded for good health. I asked if my picture stood in his house. He broke down, crying uncontrollably, saying my picture was in every room, including the attic. I smiled and blessed his health.

I asked Atlas what he would offer for my help. He stammered, not knowing the answer. I asked about money. He said anything. I rose, infuriated, shouting that I care little for money and demand complete and total obedience. I asked Atlas if he was prepared to swear complete loyalty to me.

Atlas shook his head, said he couldn't do that, as much as he respected me. I made him kiss my ring or else face immediate death. He obeyed that much.

Unlike others, I do not retire at six in the evening. I break for a short dinner prepared by one of my loyal subjects, then return to further Kingly pursuits. Since no one can fight like I, King Ernie must destroy his foes personally. Their destruction has the glorious taste of my fists upon their faces. Just ask Chief Strongbow.

Other wrestlers merely enter the ring, cheat their way to a doubtful victory and leave. Not King Ladd. I must attend to their wounds and see they receive proper treatment. I cannot simply destroy. I have a kingdom to rule over. Laws must be followed. If a King does not follow his laws, who will?

As leader and supreme ruler of wrestling, I must confront masked geeks like Mr. Wrestling II and drunk Indian has-beens like Strongbow. If I were mortal, I could ignore these lower forms of plant life. But a King cannot ignore any threats. Thus I must destroy these viral infections before my kingdom suffers irreparable damage.

I'm tired of being your King. I have had enough. This job bores me. The challenges are no longer there. I need new motivations, new mountains to conquer. I have long considered joining the astronaut program and demanding being named Prince of the Moon, or Emperor of Mars. Such new empires fascinate me. Imagine the potential for Martian wrestling. Or on the Moon. Oxygen Death Matches. Gravitational Matches.

Yes, that interests me. Also politics, though I would never consider running. Who would be worthy enough to run against me? Of course, I would consider no post lower than President.

Good-bye, my dim-witted children. □

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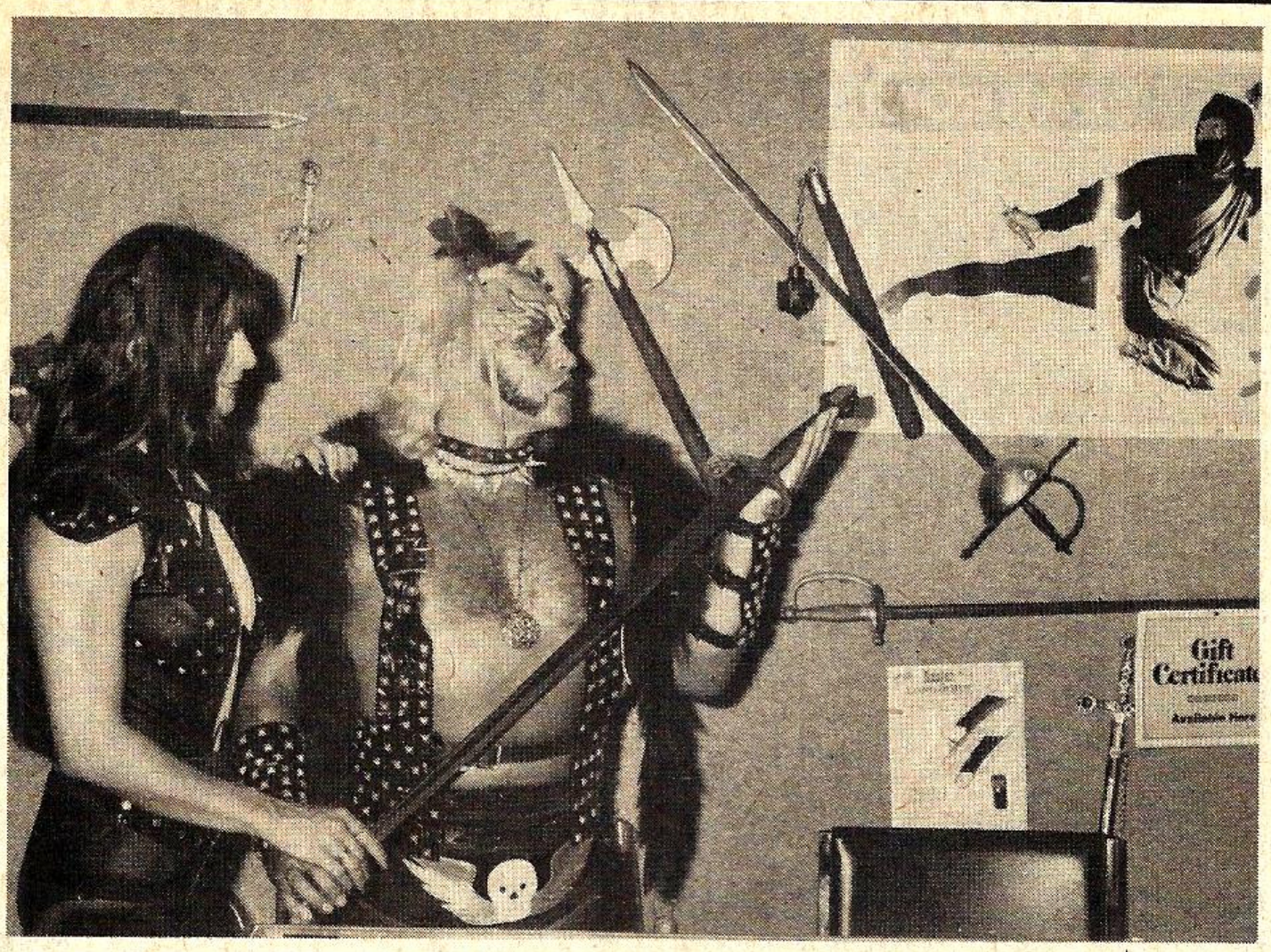

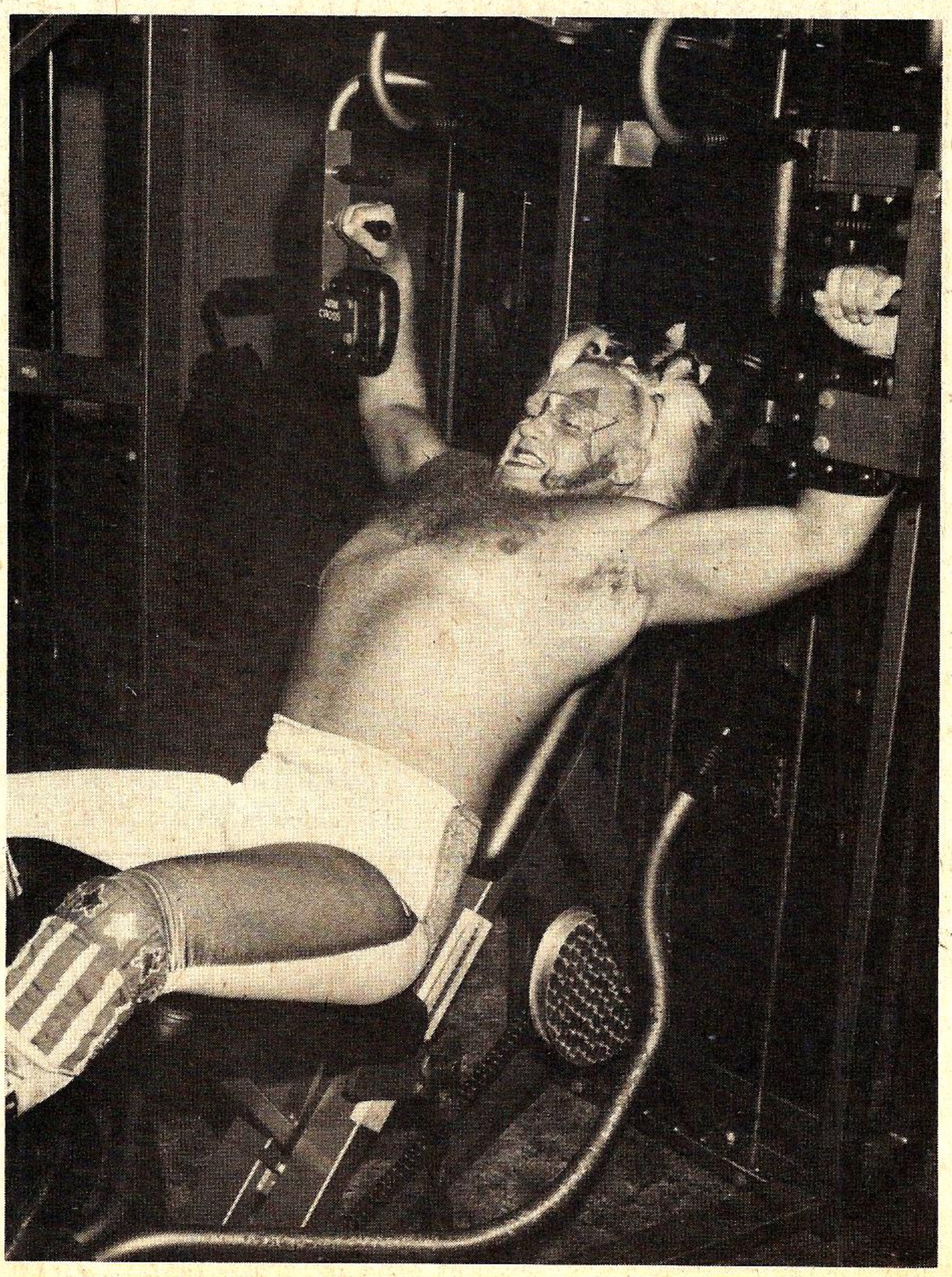

ADRIAN STREET

(Continued from page 47)

ions in the windows of the stores that I affectionately nicknamed "for the unfortunate."

For the most part, the people in the mall didn't bother me. One thing was annoying. There are troops of children who seem to do nothing else but sit around the mall and play offensive music at loud volumes on these huge portable stereos. I do not feel that they should inflict their taste on others. An upsetting state of affairs, to say the least.

One shop I found quite amusing sold martial arts equipment. I thought I could find a number of items here to send back home to some of my friends. The sales help there was surprisingly attentive and very helpful. Of course, I don't bother myself with monetary problems. Miss Linda handles all of my purchases. I just point and it's mine.

We walked through some of the other stores, picking up some everyday things and just passing the time. Is this all that you Americans have to do? I would be bored to tears after a while.

The day was very enlightening, however. Some of the people I spoke to were surprisingly literate. There were also those who couldn't seem to put two words together to make a sentence. Some of them, I'm sure, were just too starstruck to say anything. For the others, I prescribe three or four years at a British boy's school. A course on basic public speaking would seem to be the order of the day.

Luckily, I don't have to fill too many of my days in this manner. I think I'd just go bonkers! □

Street examines an antique sword at a martial arts store (top left). Adrian works out on the Nautilus double-chest machine at the mall's spa (left).

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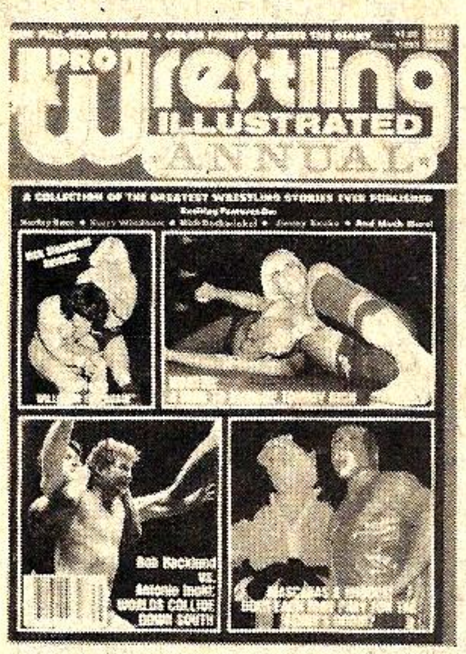

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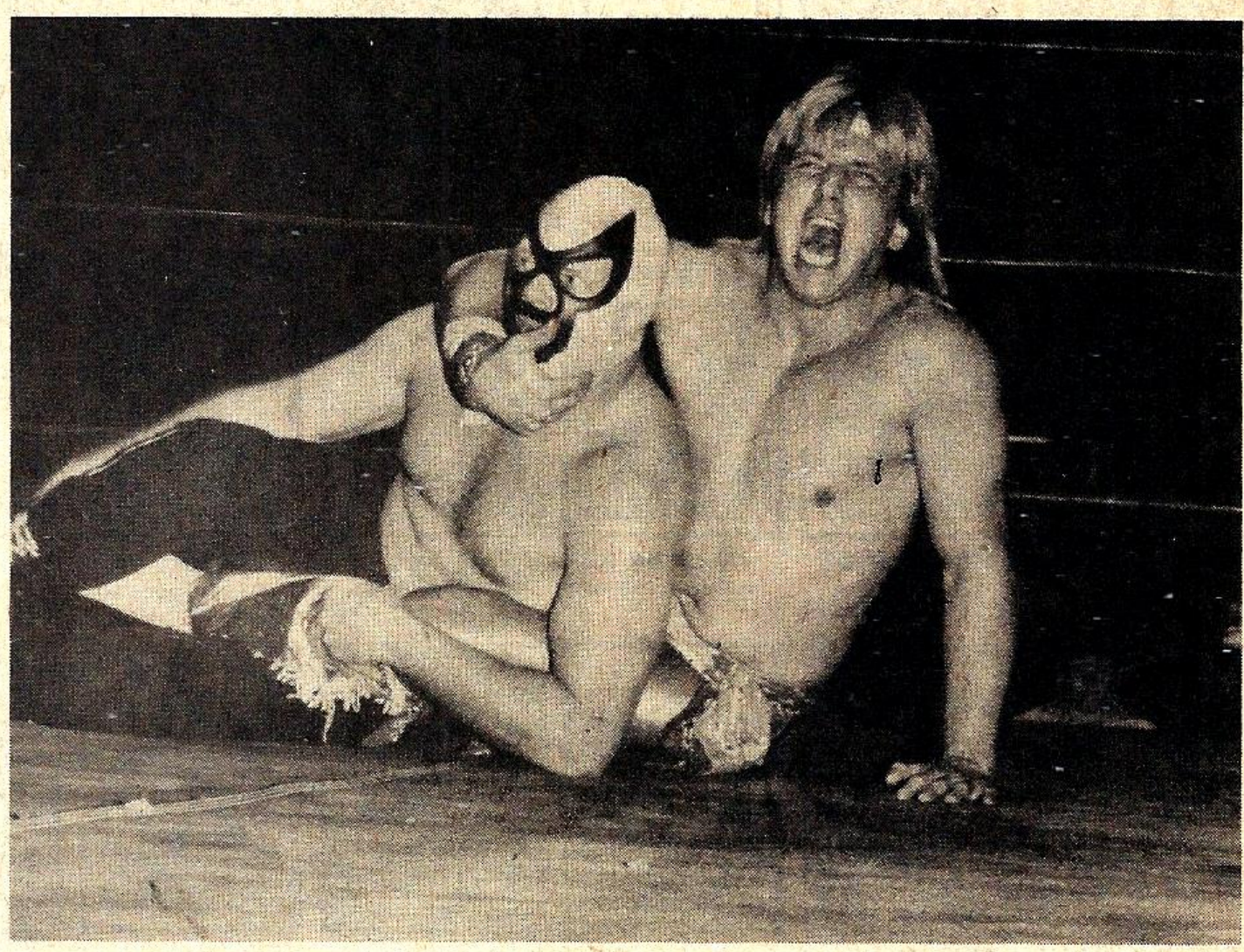
ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

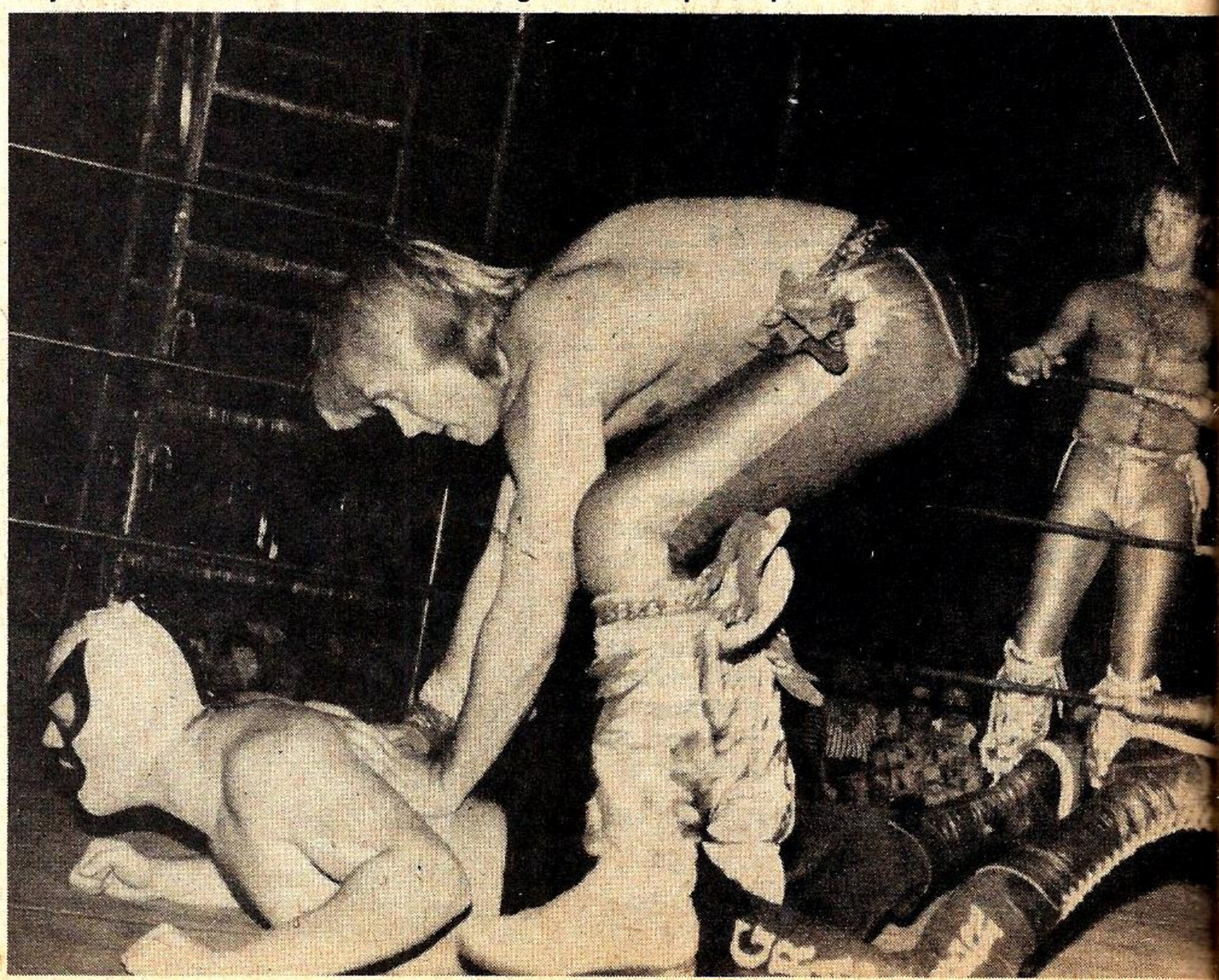
(Continued from page 43)

Keirn and Lane. "There is one thing that distinguishes us from them," Morton said. "They're older than us. That means they have more experience, but we think having youth on our side cancels that out.

"Also, maybe their age means they're a bit more set in their ways, whereas I think we could change the way we do things with just a little work. They might expect to see a carbon copy of themselves across the ring, and we could sur-



Morton will take time out during a match to lead the cheers of the crowd (above). Rick gives Grappler #1 a painful massage (below). Morton and Gibson are rockin' and rollin' their way to a shot at the AWA Southern tag team championship.



The Rock 'n' Roll Express has a great deal of respect for the current AWA Southern tag team champions, Steve Keirn and Stan Lane, "The Fabulous Ones." Morton and Gibson realize that the champions are the far more experienced of the two teams, but they think their youth and enthusiasm can even out the odds.

prise them."

"The way I see the match going," Gibson said, "that is, if it ever comes off, is for us to wear them down with a lot of tagging in and out, a lot of speed, and one or two surprises."

Presently, the Rock 'n' Roll Express is keeping busy feuding with the former Southwest tag team champions, The Grapplers. "This has been going on for a long time," Gibson said. "We don't usually like to get involved in these grudge feuds, but there was just something about this one. We want to get a convincing win over these guys, not a decision, not a disqualification or a countout, we want a pin or a submission."

Such a win would certainly help them get a title match with Keirn and Lane. "We're ready to wrestle anybody in the world," Morton said. "All we want is the chance to fulfill our dream."

Sweet dreams are made of this. Who am I to disagree. □

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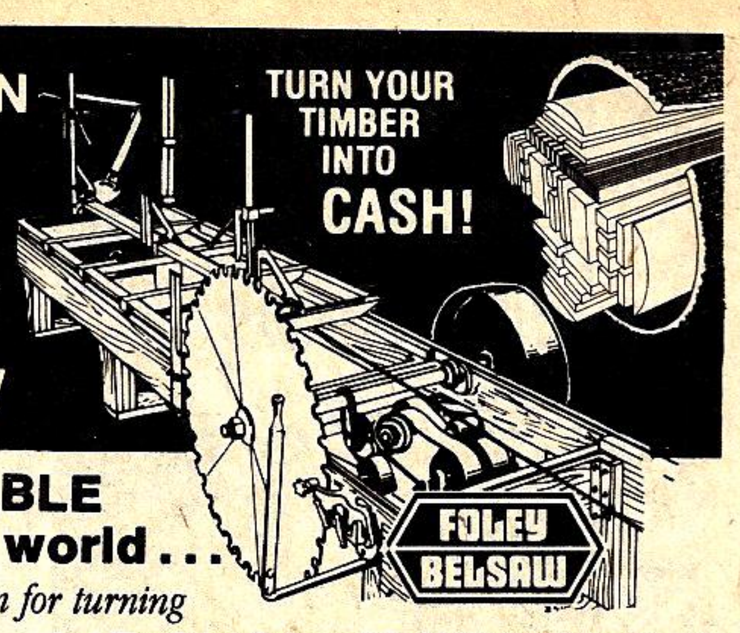

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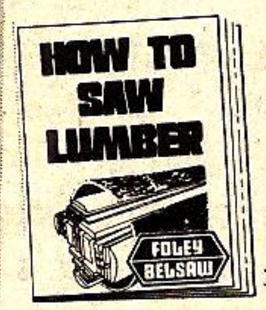

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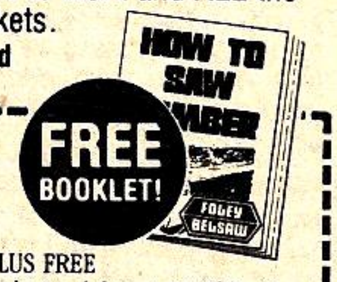

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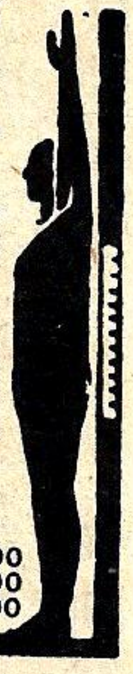

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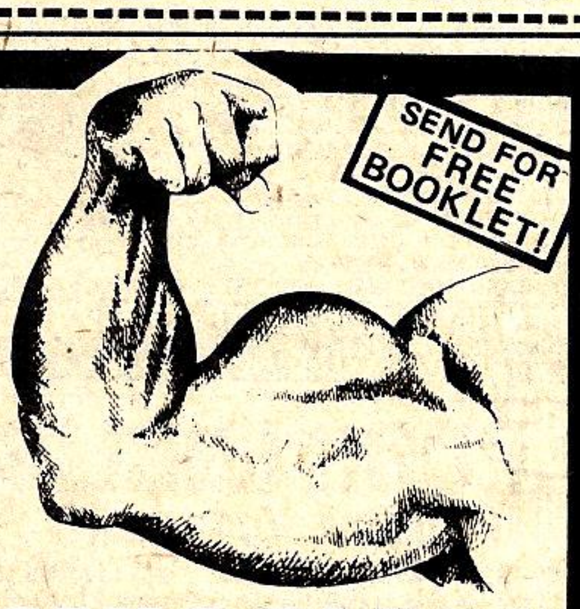

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GRAPEVINE

(Continued from page 10)

he was trustworthy, others said to stay away from him completely. Now that I know where he stands, I know how to deal with him."

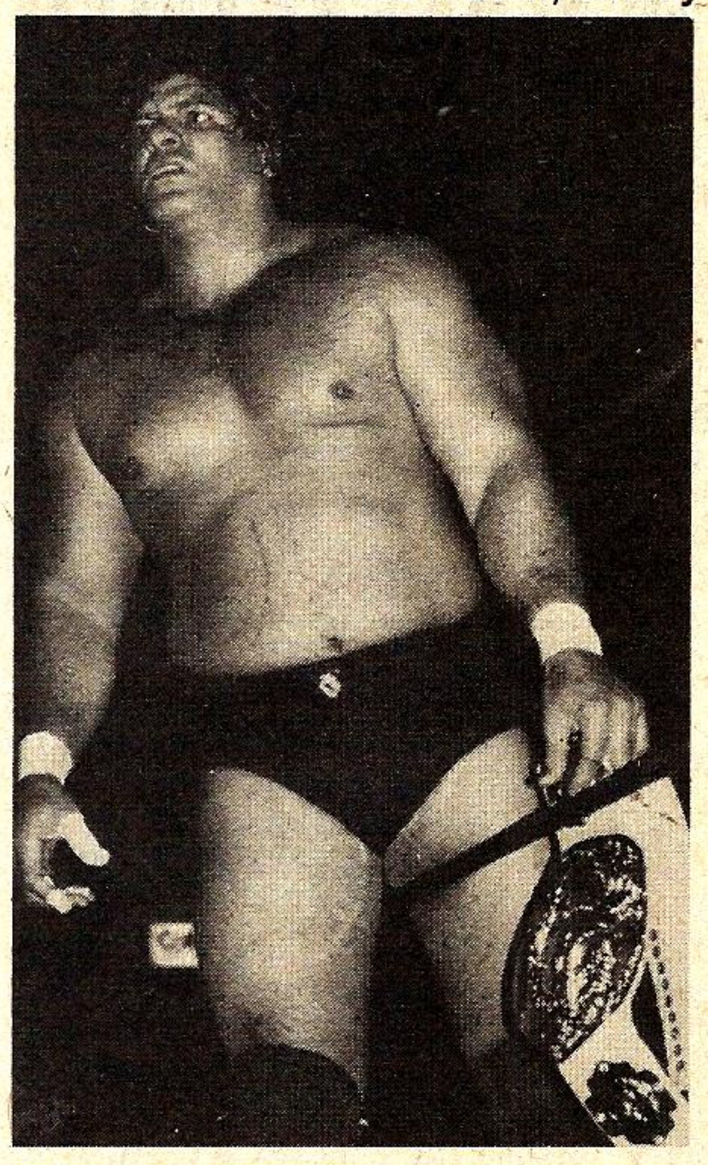
Immediately following the trophy incident, Hogan demanded a match with Saito. As of press time, there was no word whether or not Saito had agreed to a match.

***

Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka failed in his second attempt at Madison Square Garden to capture the WWF Intercontinental championship from **Magnificent Muraco**.

At the end of a match that lasted nearly 15 minutes, Snuka had to be pulled off of Muraco by several wrestlers. Snuka had clamped his hands around Muraco's neck in a chokehold and refused to obey the referee's order to break.

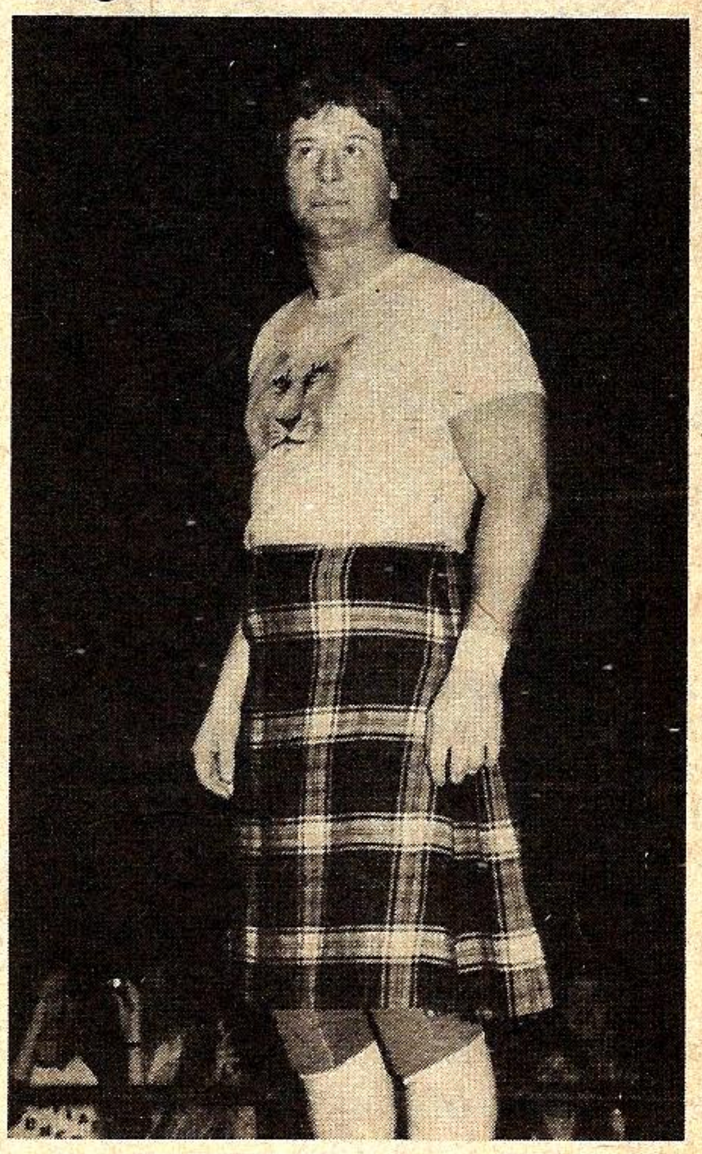
"It's too bad Jimmy lost his head," said Snuka's manager, **Buddy Rogers**, "because he had the title in the palm of his hand. For almost the entire match, Jimmy was in control. Then Muraco caught him with a clothesline and kicked him in the groin. Snuka just lost his cool. I can't blame him, but it did cost him the belt."



Magnificent Muraco retained his WWF Intercontinental belt at Madison Square Garden when both he and Jimmy Snuka were disqualified.

***

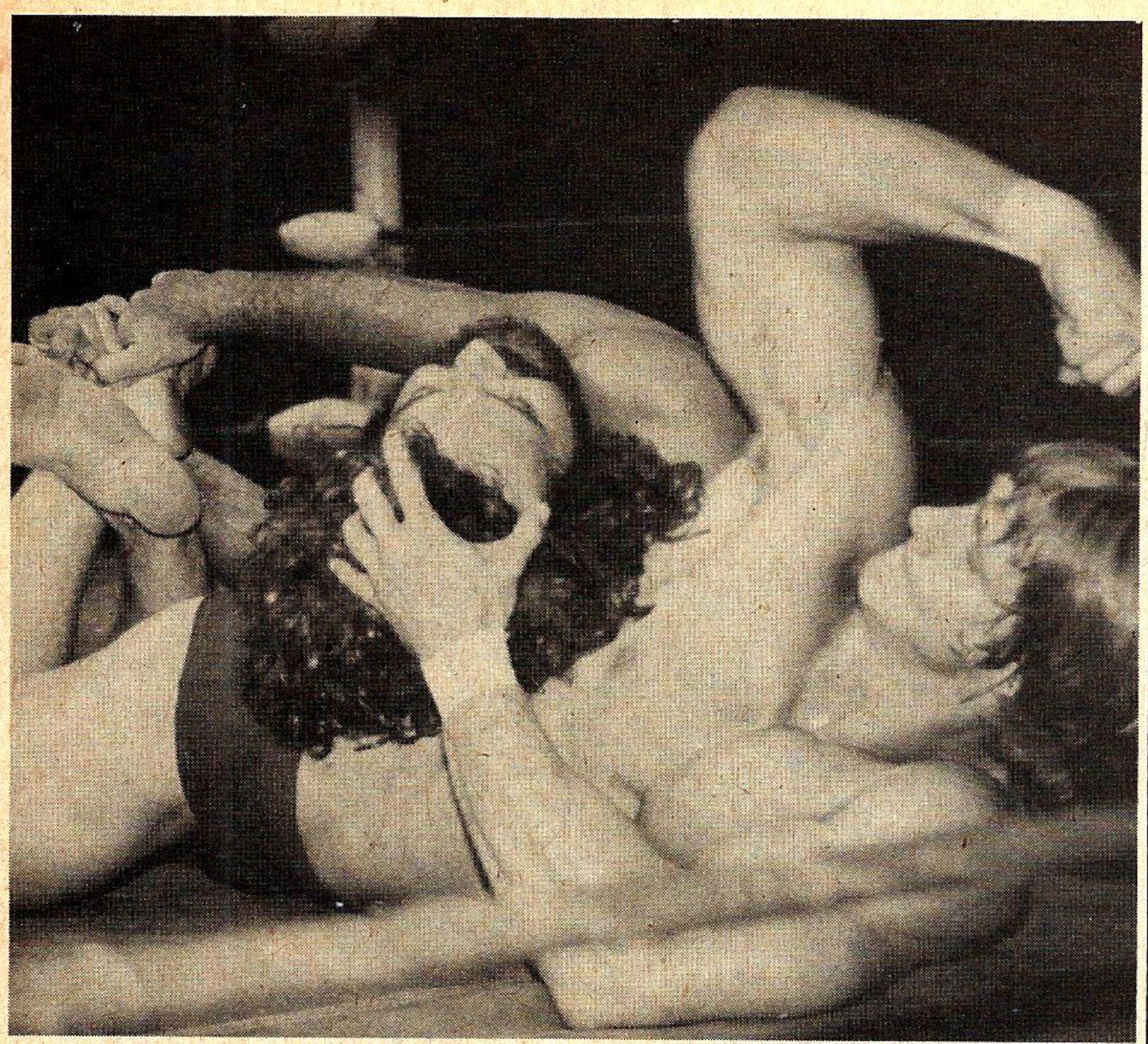
Roddy Piper has returned to the Georgia area.



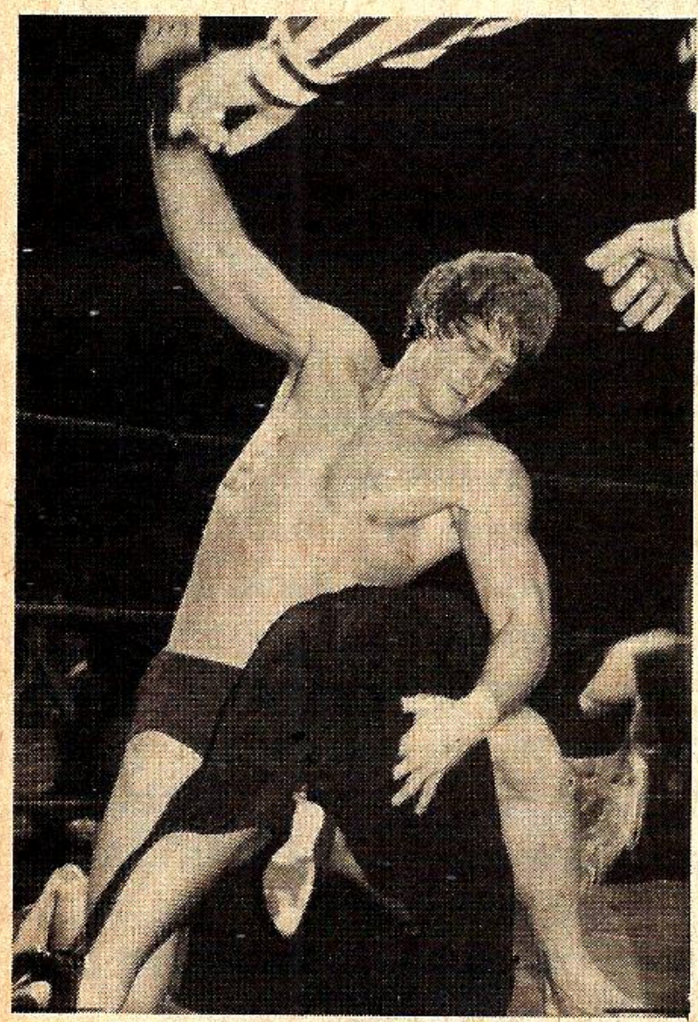
Roddy Piper has returned to the Georgia area, looking for opponents who will be able to test his abilities.

"Yes, I'm back, just like a boomerang, you can't throw me away because I'll come right around at you with more power than before," said Roddy in his characteristic hyperactive tone of voice. "I'm back in Georgia, even though some fans tried to vote me out of the area for good, but these fans couldn't even vote for themselves in a school election, so they failed, and I'm back!"

When asked what his immediate plans in Georgia are, Piper responded, "No immediate plans, no sir, but I am teaming up with my good buddy **Tommy Rich** and I'm just going to take things one day at a time. I want competition, good wrestling, and a test of my abilities.



Kevin Von Erich seemed well on his way to successfully defending his American heavyweight title against Jim Garvin (above) until Garvin's valet, Sunshine, interfered. Kevin didn't even wait for the match to end before punishing the beautiful blonde (below), and his impatience cost him the title.



If I can't get that, I'll be out of here faster than anyone can imagine."

***

If you want to stay friendly with the **Von Erich** brothers, don't mention **Gorgeous Jim Garvin** and his valet, **Sunshine.**

The beautiful hand-servant has once again been the cause of a Von Erich title loss, as Garvin defeated **Kevin Von Erich** for the American heavyweight championship. Previously, Sunshine had been instrumental in Garvin's defeat of **David Von Erich** for the World Class heavyweight championship. After that match, David punished Sunshine for her interference with a spanking.

Kevin did not wait for the match to end before spanking the beautiful blonde. And that was a mistake. Von Erich was attacked by Garvin from behind, and Garvin rode the momentum to victory.

"That is the last time Sunshine will get in the way," Kevin said. "Now, my mom always told me not to strike a woman, but she just went too far."

David has gone before the state athletic commission requesting that Sunshine be banned from the arenas. "There's no reason for her to be around once the match starts," he said. "I want her out."

The commission has not yet returned its decision. □

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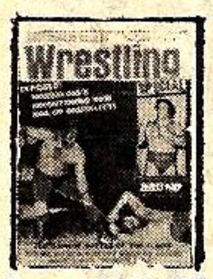
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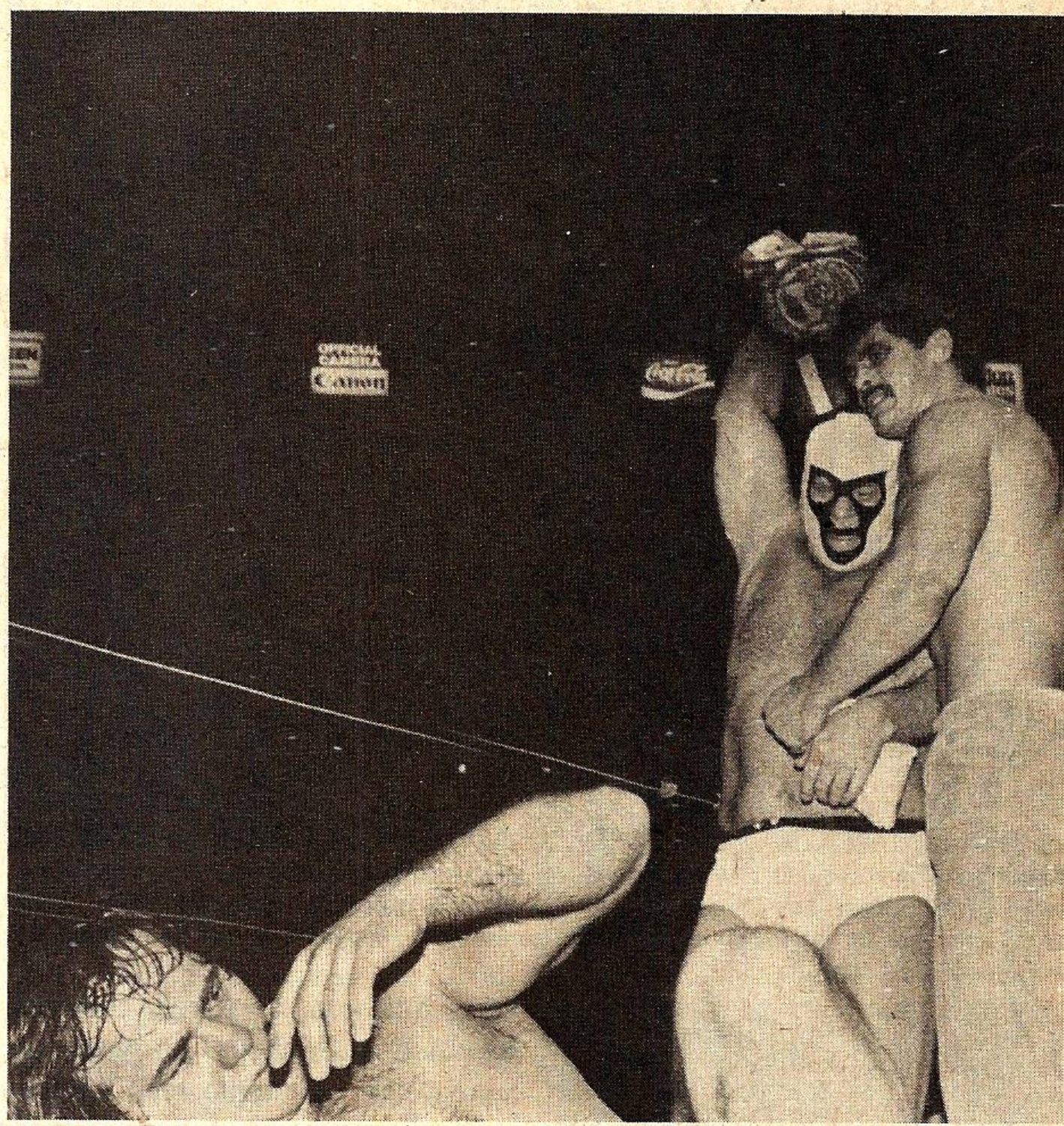
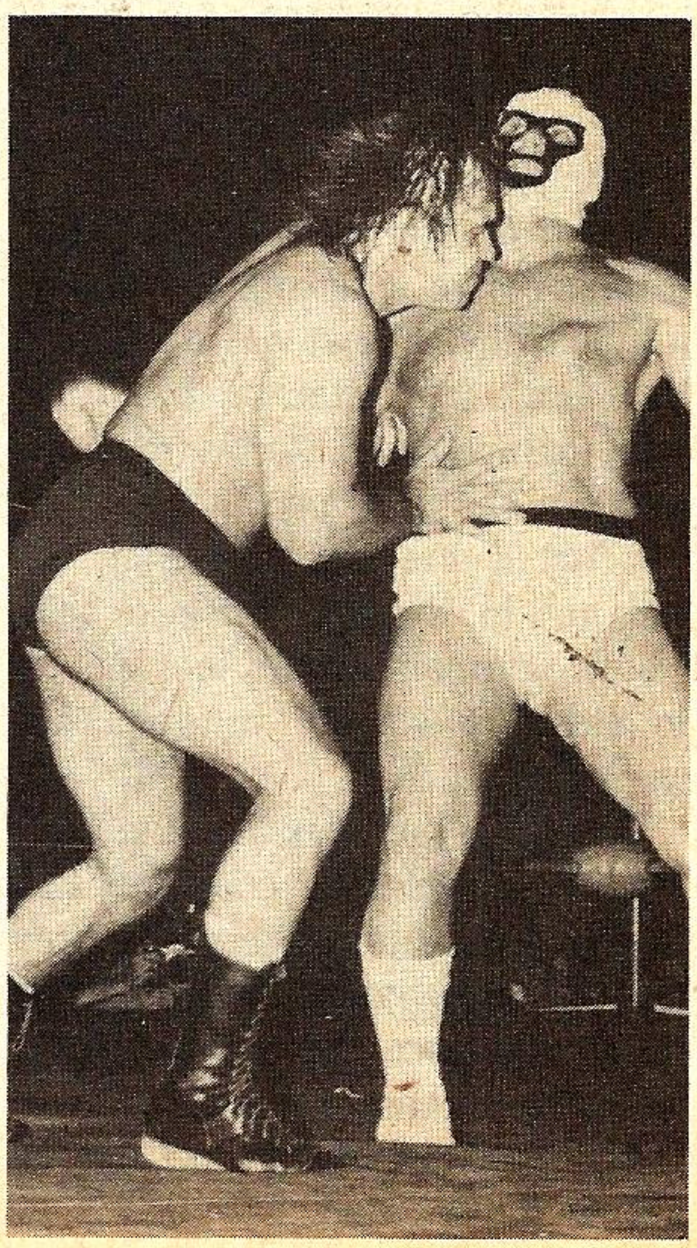
LARRY ZBYSZKO

(Continued from page 24)



Mr. Wrestling II's apparent title-winning effort against Zbyszko (above) was not allowed because Rick Rood had made the count for the injured referee. Wrestling II has not yet returned the National title belt, however. Wrestling II hiprolls Larry (below).



II and his friends. I'll take care of him. It may be in the courts, it may be in the wrestling ring, but I'll take care of him.

Q: Do you really think all this legal action will make a difference?

A: It might. It might not. All I want is justice. If I can't get justice through the courts, I'll have to take matters in my own hands. Frankly, I'm getting a little impatient, the courts move far too slow for my own tastes.

Q: What are your plans for the immediate future?

A: Very simple. Get my belt back, defend my title anywhere and everywhere necessary, and continue to live up to my name: Larry Zbyszko, the New Living Legend.

Q: That's all?

A: That's enough, Bill, being a Legend is a full-time job. ☐

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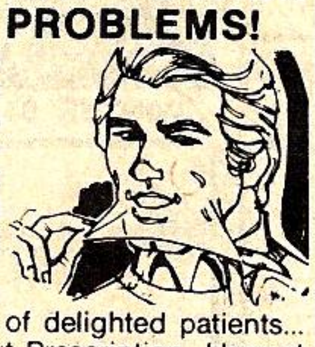

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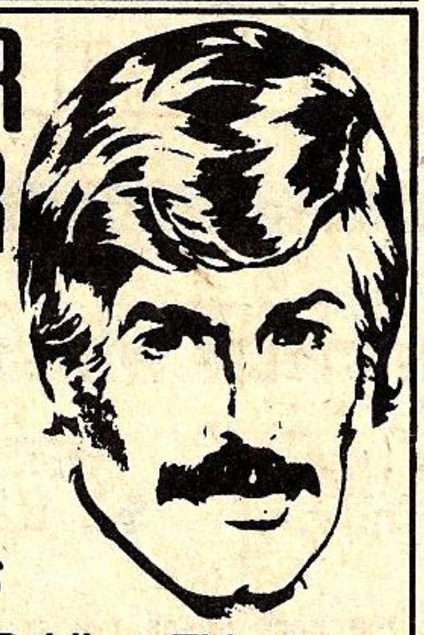

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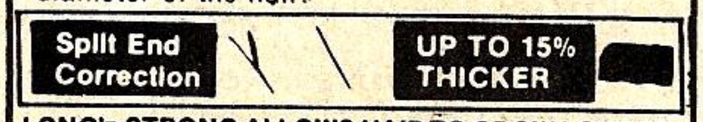

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DUSTY RHODES

(Continued from Page 15)

anything to tarnish that trust.

"I love my fans and I'd never jeopardize our relationship by acting weird or doin' brawlin'," said Rhodes.

Rhodes fails to appreciate that all men fall from grace at one time or another. No one is perfect, even the American Dream. Yet Rhodes persists in conducting himself according to a standard unattainable by anyone south of Mt. Olympus.

"I ain't like the other wrestlers," said Rhodes. "I don't care what others do. It only concerns me when they get into the ring. When I'm champion, I want to act like a champ and I want all the kids to look up to me and see how a man's supposed to act.

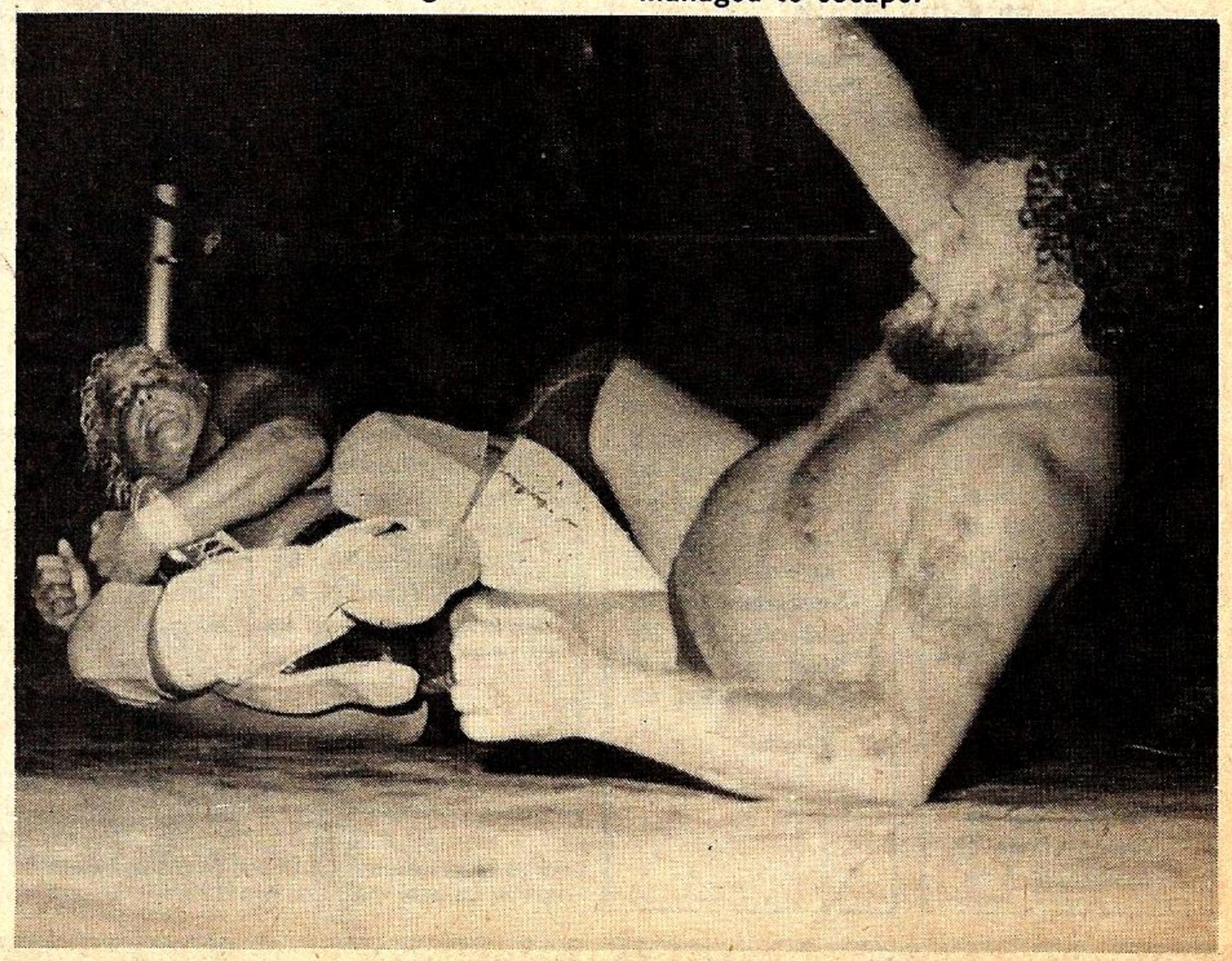
"So I put pressure on myself. That's life, man. I ain't complainin' to anyone. I chose this sport over others like baseball and football 'cause I loved it and accepted all the risks and disappointments. I have only one way to live and one style of wrestlin'. I ain't about to change now and disappoint any of my fans, and I ain't gonna let anything shame me or the people who love me.

"When I first won the NWA belt from Harley Race, I was on cloud nine. Then it hit me about the awesome responsibility wrapped around my waist. I wouldn't go off shootin' my mouth all over town about how great I was. Hell, I was champion of the world and had commitments, responsibilities, people lookin' up to me and respectin' me 'cause I was champion.

"I hadda wrestle everyone who dared me. A champion doesn't shirk his duties, especially a champion named Dusty Rhodes. That's why I took on Race after that lunatic Terry Funk broke my wrist. Maybe another man mighta begged off, but that don't concern me. It's what Dusty Rhodes shoulda done that mattered and what people mighta thought of me if I'd backed down and asked for the match to be postponed.

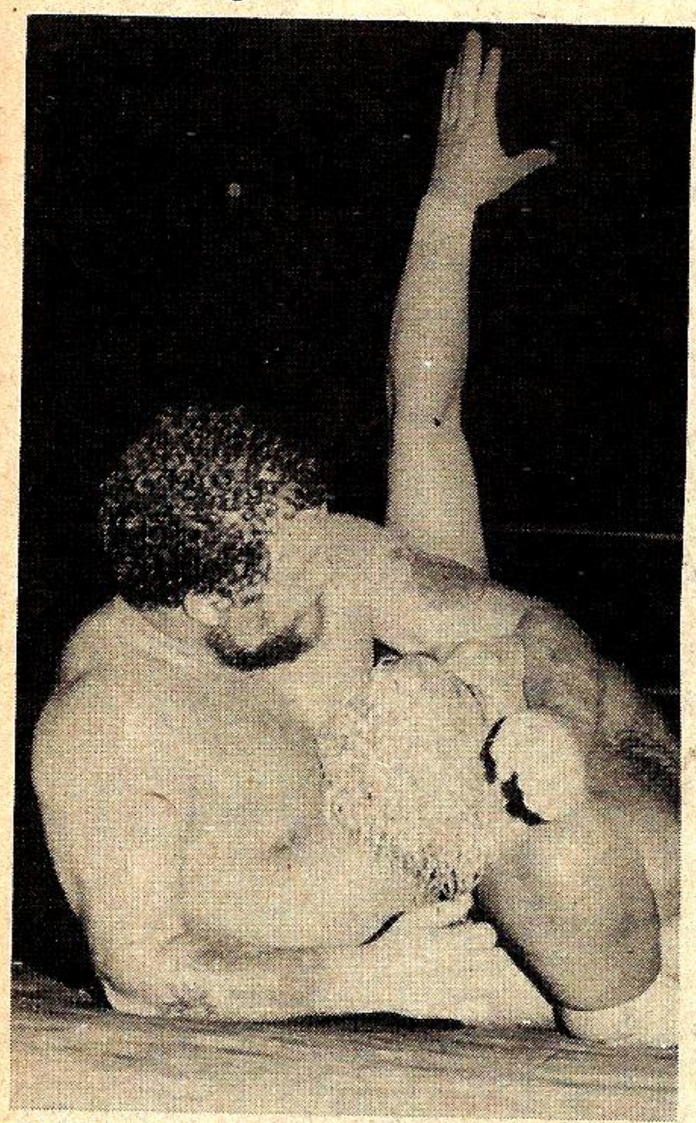
"People know what I stand for

Rhodes did not have a firm grip on his figure-four leglock, and the champion managed to escape.



and that I've got the courage to step into situations where none dare venture. I got an image and reputation to maintain and people lovin' me who'll be real hurt if I ever do anything contrary.

"Lookit, I always wanted to be world champion. I think anyone in this sport who denies that's the ultimate goal is a big liar. I want the belt, but not just to parade around with it and show what a big man I am.



Though Rhodes once captured the NWA belt from Race, his reign was short-lived. Race applies a chinlock (above).

"I want the title 'cause I want people to be proud of me and I want them to know I love 'em as much as they love me. I couldn't ever go back into the ring if I ever did somethin' against that thinkin'. If I wrestle or act one small iota below what I should be doin', I might as well kick off the boots and pack it in."

There is little reason to think Rhodes will or could change. He is a vital, passionate, fiercely stubborn man with a firm, powerful self-image reinforced by fan adoration. At this stage of his career, it's unlikely he'd tamper with that self-image. Even if it brings him disaster. □

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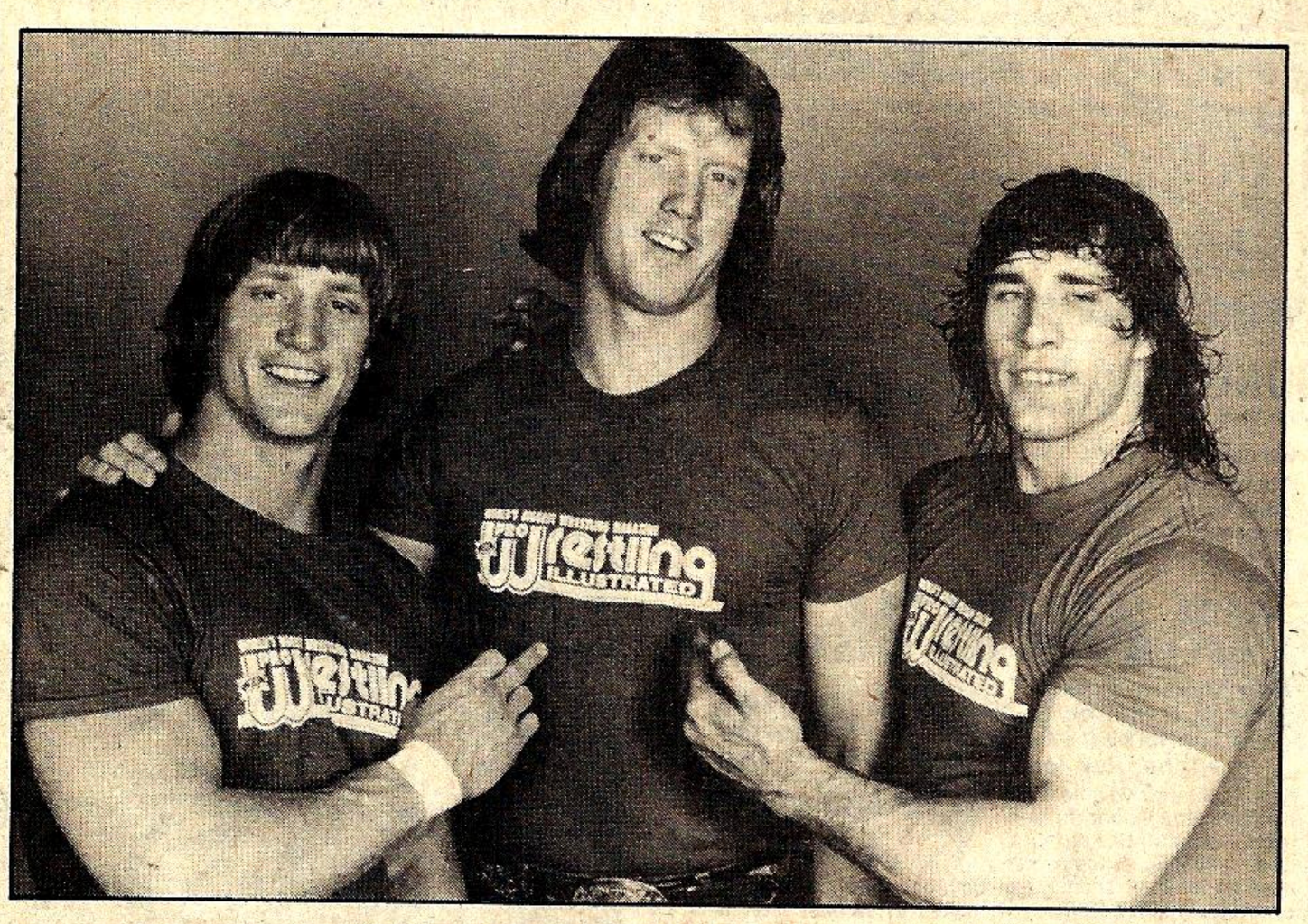

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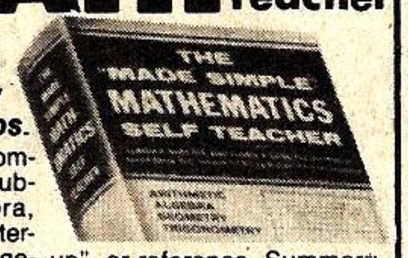

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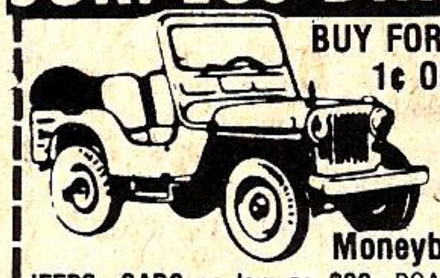

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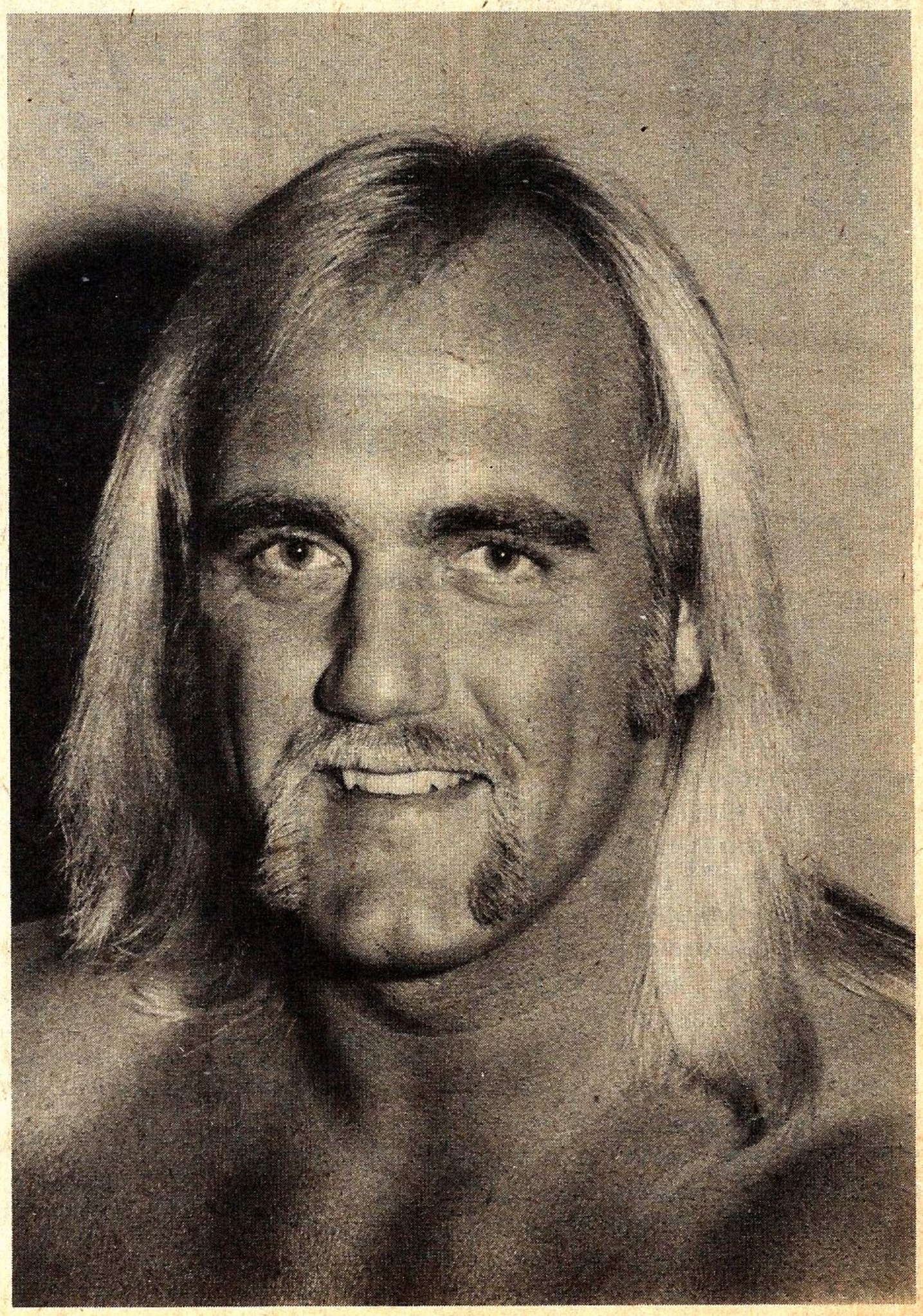
QUOTEBOOK

(Continued from page 26)

HULK HOGAN: "It feels good to be back in the AWA territory again. During my tour of Japan, a lot of mail was forwarded to me from the States. There were a lot of petitions in that mail, pages and pages of names of fans who wanted me back in the AWA. It really hit me hard, it really pointed out to me how much the fans there appreciate me, even if I wasn't able to capture the heavyweight belt from Nick Bockwinkel. That bothered me for a while, and I needed to get away from the AWA to get my head together. The fans have helped me do that. I appreciate their support. It's good to be back."

PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE: "I never believed that the cheers of the fans could be so pleasing to my ears! I walk in the ring and I have the support of the crowd—it's great! I find that I'm wrestling a lot better because of it, too. I'm gaining an extra edge in my



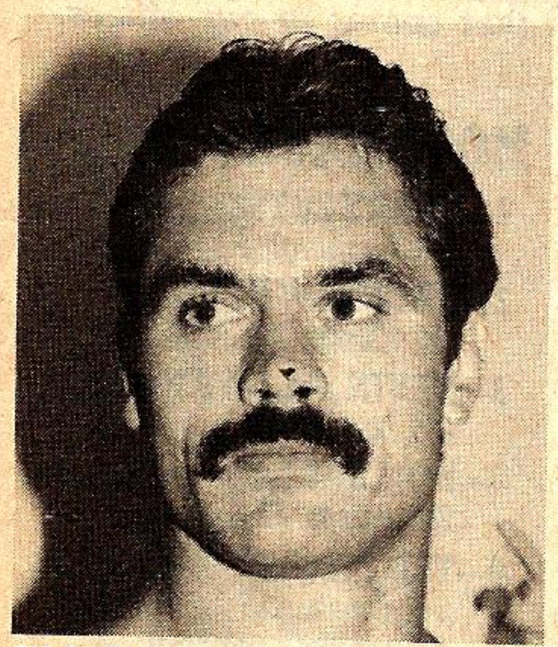
HULK HOGAN

RATINGS ANALYSIS

This column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans

Welcome to the ratings! Some new names grace our ratings pages this month. Here is a brief rundown on the men and the reasons for their respective places in the rankings:

Dino Bravo, the Canadian International heavyweight champion, this month breaks into the *Wrestling Superstars* Top 10. Bravo's recent title defenses, including a grueling match against Superstar in The Forum in Montreal, have proven to the ratings committee that Bravo is a champion worthy of greater recognition.



Rick Rood

Playboy Buddy Rose has, to the surprise of many people, made it into the Most Popular ratings. Wrestling in the Pacific Northwest, Rose is now hearing cheers since he has changed his attitude toward both the fans and the wrestlers he keeps company with.

Rick Rood is a young wrestler who has been setting the Georgia area aflame. His winning record over the past months has won him national attention and acclaim. It has also won him a spot in the Georgia ratings: number 10.

Jos LeDuc recently defeated Scott McGhee for the Florida heavyweight title. As a result, he now occupies the number two spot in the Florida ratings, and the number six spot on the NWA list.

Abdullah the Butcher is an individual who hardly deserves to be called a "wrestler." His trademark is blood, and whether it's his own or his opponent's, he seems to be fueled by the sight of dripping crimson. His disgusting mutilation of wrestler after wrestler certainly earns him a spot in the Most Hated category, a spot that would be higher than number 10 if it weren't for the fact that Abdullah spends so much time out of the country.

The Freebirds

A five-man tag team match? In our tag team ratings, we occasionally rank a six-man tag team such as The Von Erichs or The Freebirds (such rankings are noted by an asterisk next to the team's name). This is for two reasons: 1) These teams compete in six-man matches as well as conventional Australian tag team competition, and 2) When they do compete in conventional matches, there is no steady combination of two men who *always* wrestle together. It could be any two of the three on any given night.

Has anyone else noticed the combined weights, however, of a recent championship combination of two men? Ken Patera and Crusher Blackwell—combined weight: 730 pounds! All three Freebirds are only 61 pounds heavier, and all three Von Erich brothers only 22 pounds heavier!

A five-man tag team match pitting Sheiks Patera and Blackwell against The Freebirds or the Von Erichs seems almost fair!

The address for mail: We welcome comments and questions regarding our ratings. Send all correspondence to: *Wrestling Superstars*; Box 48; Rockville Centre; New York 11571. □

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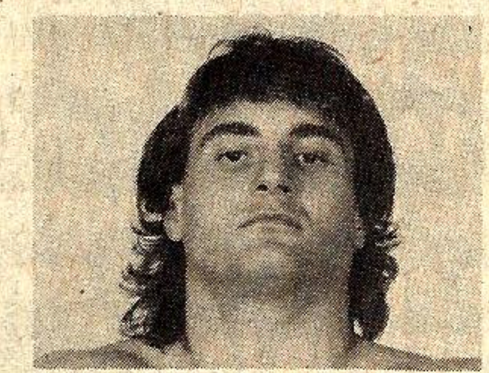
Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.

Andre the Giant



Adrian Adonis

TOP10

1—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO

2—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France

3—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA

4—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

5—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

6—BOB BACKLUND
242, Princeton, MN

7—DINO BRAVO
248, Montreal, Quebec

8—ADRIAN ADONIS
251, New York, NY

9—MIL MASCARAS
242, Mexico City, Mexico

10—JUNKYARD DOG
260, New Orleans, LA

TAG TEAMS

1—JACK & JERRY BRISCO
Combined Weight: 455 pounds

2—KEN PATERA & CRUSHER BLACKWELL
Combined Weight: 710 pounds

3—MIKE GRAHAM & SCOTT McGHEE
Combined Weight: 452 pounds

4—THE ROAD WARRIORS
Combined Weight: 540 pounds

5—TERRY ALLEN & HACKSAW DUGGAN
Combined Weight: 525 pounds

6—RUFUS R. JONES & BUGSY McGRAW
Combined Weight: 553 pounds

7—THE SAMOANS
Combined Weight: 598 pounds

8—THE VON ERICHS*
*Combined Weight: 752 pounds**

9—THE MOONDOGS
Combined Weight: 613 pounds

10—PAT PATTERSON & PIERRE LeFEBVRE
Combined Weight: 476 pounds

***Combined weights reflect three team members**

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion:
HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO

1—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

2—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA

3—LARRY ZBYSZKO
240, Pittsburgh, PA

4—DORY FUNK JR.
244, Amarillo, TX

5—RON BASS
285, Pampa, TX

6—JOS LeDUC
280, Godbout, Quebec

7—MR. WRESTLING II
232, Atlanta, GA

8—SUPER DESTROYER
271, parts unknown

9—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL

10—BOB ARMSTRONG
229, Marietta, GA

AWA

World Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA

1—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

2—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

3—KEN PATERA
256, Portland, OR

4—MR. SAITO
247, Japan

5—MAD DOG VACHON
225, Algeria

6—BARON VON RASCHKE
271, Germany

7—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
474, Stone Mountain, GA

8—JESSE VENTURA
270, Muscle Beach, CA

9—GREG GAGNE
220, Robinsdale, MN

10—BUCK ZUMHOFE
222, Hamburg, MN

MOST POPULAR

1—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France

2—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

3—JUNKYARD DOG
260, New Orleans, LA

4—RODDY PIPER
231, Scotland

5—JIMMY SNUKA
250, Fiji Islands

6—TOMMY RICH
238, Hendersonville, TN

7—PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE
245, Minneapolis, MN

8—DAVID VON ERICH
247, Denton, TX

9—BOB BACKLUND
242, Princeton, MN

10—OLE ANDERSON
256, Minneapolis, MN

MOST HATED

1—LARRY ZBYSZKO
240, Pittsburgh, PA

2—HACKSAW REED
249, Kansas City, MO

3—KEVIN SULLIVAN
235, Boston, MA

4—RON BASS
285, Pampa, FL

5—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE

6—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA

7—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX

8—BUZZ SAWYER
240, St. Petersburg, FL

9—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
262, Sunset Beach, HI

10—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
360, Sudan

CIAL
G RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

WWF

Champion:
BOB BACKLUND
242, Princeton, MN

1—**GEORGE STEELE**
298, Detroit, MI
2—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Paris Island, SC
3—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
262, Sunset Beach, HI
4—**JIMMY SNUKA**
250, Fiji Islands
5—**IVAN KOLOFF**
249, Russia
6—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Washington, DC
7—**ROCKY JOHNSON**
244, Washington, DC
8—**TIGER CHUNG LEE**
270, Korea
9—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
10—**IVAN PUTSKI**
242, Krakow, Poland

GEORGIA

1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
240, Pittsburgh, PA
2—**MR. WRESTLING II**
232, Atlanta, GA
3—**TOMMY RICH**
238, Hendersonville, TN
4—**BUZZ SAWYER**
240, St. Petersburg, FL
5—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
6—**PEZ WHATLEY**
238, El Paso, TX
7—**OLE ANDERSON**
256, Minneapolis, MN
8—**BRETT WAYNE**
242, St. Petersburg, FL
9—**KILLER BROOKS**
235, Lancaster, TX
10—**RICK ROOD**
233, Robinsdale, MN

WORLD CLASS

1—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
2—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
254, Denton, TX
3—**DAVID VON ERICH**
247, Denton, TX
4—**KERRY VON ERICH**
251, Denton, TX
5—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
6—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda
7—**MIL MASCARAS**
242, Mexico City, Mexico
8—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
242, St. Louis, MO
9—**BUDDY ROBERTS**
247, Del City, OK
10—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chatanooga, TN

MID-ATLANTIC

1—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
2—**DORY FUNK JR.**
244, Amarillo, TX
3—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Scotland
4—**BUGSY McGRAW**
245, New York, NY
5—**JIMMY VALIANT**
251, New York, NY
6—**THE GREAT KABUKI**
252, Singapore
7—**BOB ORTON, JR.**
245, Kansas City, KS
8—**JACK BRISCO**
232, Blackwell, OK
9—**THE MAGIC DRAGON**
235, Japan
10—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL

FLORIDA

1—**RON BASS**
285, Pampa, TX
2—**JOS LeDUC**
280, Godbout, Quebec
3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
4—**BARRY WINDHAM**
230, Sweetwater, TX
5—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
235, Boston, MA
6—**THE PURPLE HAZE**
235, Buffalo, NY
7—**KING KONG MOSCA**
309, Caledou, Ontario
8—**MIKE GRAHAM**
232, Tampa, FL
9—**SCOTT McGHEE**
220, Shipley, England
10—**OX BAKER**
309, Waterloo, IA

MID-SOUTH

1—**HACKSAW REED**
249, Kansas City, MO
2—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA
3—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, New York, NY
4—**MR. WRESTLING II**
232, Atlanta, GA
5—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE
6—**KING KONG BUNDY**
420, Atlantic City, NJ
7—**MR. OLYMPIA**
240, parts unknown
8—**MIL MASCARAS**
242, Mexico City, Mexico
9—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda
10—**TERRY ALLEN**
245, Chesapeake, VA

SOUTHWEST

1—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
251, New York, NY
2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
3—**STAN HANSEN**
285, Borger, TX
4—**ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
5—**BOBBY JAGGERS**
255, Dunlap, KS
6—**SCOTT CASEY**
235, Amarillo, TX
7—**TIGER CONWAY, JR.**
230, Houston, TX
8—**BOB SWEETAN**
285, Round Rock, TX
9—**SWEET BROWN SUGAR**
226, Dallas, TX
10—**AL PEREZ**
234, Tampa, FL

NORTHWEST

1—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
2—**THE ASSASSIN**
240, parts unknown
3—**RIP OLIVER**
245, Tampa, FL
4—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE**
245, Minneapolis, MN
5—**BILLY JACK**
245, Portland, OR
6—**AL MADRIL**
235, Los Angeles, CA
7—**RON RITCHIE**
238, New York, NY
8—**CHIEF TAPU**
228, Samoa
9—**BRIAN ADIDAS**
238, Dallas, TX
10—**THE GREAT TIA**
236, Samoa